



Cambridge POLITICS Chronicle by Mike Petty

Note: excludes undergraduate excesses – see c.36.93

Election tactics long ago – Enid Porter – 59 10 07 & a
Eighty-year-old Henry Palmer of Bradmore Street had lively recollection of some of the old election fights between the Whigs and Tories. “I have seen the shop windows broken and the blood running in the streets and the paths all slippery and sloppy with it. They used to have barrels of beer on Parker’s Piece and knock the head in and dip the beer out in pails and hand it round. The political parties used to be hot in those days” He also recalled how a man who lived in the end house of a row in Petersfield used to make cricket bats. He built a brick wall right across the path and the matter ended up in court. Every year afterward they commemorated the event by dancing in the streets 10 09 09 & a

1888 11 23

Women’s Suffrage Association annual meeting, membership 50; are allowed to vote for new County Council [5.4]

1891 11 13

Bill Tillett first Labour leader to address first Labour demonstration in Cambridge, November [1.21]

1891

Salisbury Working Men’s Club foundation stone laid [5.18]

1900

1901 09 212

Mr Smith, a member of the Social Democratic Foundation paid a visit to Cambridge and in the evening addressed a gathering on Parker’s Piece. A box was conveyed to a spot under the central electric light. From this platform the lecturer discoursed. The majority of the audience appeared to be sympathetic. A few juveniles however found pleasure in throwing lumps of turf at the speaker and

disrupting his remarks. A large number of pamphlets were sold at the conclusion of the meeting 01 09 21

1902

Socialist beginnings - Fabian Society and townsmen meet in Queen Anne Terrace [1.15]

1903 09 04

Goods seized from Passive Resisters for the non-payment of the education rate were auctioned at Cambridge Corn Exchange. Due precautions were taken to prevent unseemly disturbances. The auctioneer was enclosed in what resembled a laager, composed of corn merchants' desks and a large number of constables kept a vigilant watch on the crowd who clambered upon desks to obtain a clearer view of what was going to happen. No sooner had the auctioneer started than his words were drowned in a perfect storm of hooting and hissing 03 09 04

1904

University try to oust their MPs as had not supported Government on Education & Licencing Bills [3.6]

1904 01 29

Many are the amusing incidents related by canvassers for Parliamentary honours. One called at a modest house in Norfolk Street, Cambridge and asked for the master of the house. A sturdy working man appeared but when asked for his support burst out: "Look here, guv'nor, you must see the 'missus. I have only voted once, and since then our rates has gone up. So she says I'm no class at voting, and in future she's going to vote herself, instead of me". In vain did the canvasser endeavour to explain that the man's good wife could not vote, but he responded "Can't vote? Can't she? Perhaps you'll tell her so!" 04 01 29

1904 02 19

Cambridge Liberals have been turned out of their handsome home in St Andrew's Street. Few provincial political clubs have had such a palatial clubhouse with large lofty rooms, spacious hall and staircase with a terrace overlooking gardens. The deceased Alderman, Henry Rance, who built the extensive premises practically ruined himself in the process. Members are now removed to a property in St Tibb's Row formerly occupied by a now defunct newspaper until new premises are completed on the site of the old Bird Bolt Hotel. 04 02 19 [3.1]

1904 02 23

County Council electioneering tactics at Cherry Hinton were exposed in confidential correspondence between two potential candidates. Mr Neal, the owner of Cherry Hinton Hall, was too unknown to have the slightest chance of carrying the seat. Many scarcely knew there was a Hall and he had not had time to make it a centre of interest. The parish is Radical to the backbone and the Conservatives would be giving the seat away to the opposition were he to stand. However Mr Brooke had great strength with the cottagers and even the Dissenters would support him. In the event of his being elected he would not serve once the Education question had been settled and would stand down, making it easier for Mr Neal to win the seat. 04 02 23

1904 09 03

Green Street, Cambridge would hardly be suspected of any pretensions to the romantic. Its well-ordered lodging-houses, the policemen who parade it and the milkmen who visit it, all seem to bar the entrance to anything more fanciful. Yet it is home to a Russian Pole, Mr Ignatius Knaster who became a political offender by the publication of a political pamphlet dealing with the conditions in Poland and was given the alternative of incarceration or banishment. 04 09 03

1906 01 13

The University is deciding who shall be their representatives in parliament. But voting is not by secret ballot. Three polling stations are furnished with desks and packs of voting cards of different colours

with a space for the voter's name, college and degree to be written. Two electors arrived together, one in academics and the other cap and gownless. He had to wait until his companion had completed his business before borrowing his gown & thus be allowed to vote. 06 01 13a&b

1906 01 13

When the election meeting at Newnham concluded the candidate's carriage was drawn to the Conservative Club followed by a procession which included a couple of motor buses. Just as it reached Cambridge Market Hill a similar procession of demonstrating Liberals poured out of Petty Cury. These two bodies of citizens conceived an intense dislike for each other, shouting vigorously. A little later there was an exhibition of fisticuffs in Sidney Street 06 01 13

1906 01 16

The polling box from Norfolk Street was the last to arrive at Cambridge Guildhall and with it came the story of a tactful police inspector who had piloted the carriage containing some hundreds of votes through a Petty Cury crowded with excited partisans. Inside the ballot papers were counted and it became known that Mr Buckmaster was elected. Mr Paget, with the generosity of an English gentleman, shook his hand and congratulated him on the victory. 06 01 16b

1906 01 16

The newly-elected Cambridge Liberal MP, Mr Buckmaster, proceeded to the Bull Hotel. Hundreds upon hundreds thronged King's Parade and still hundreds more from Market Hill arrived, cheering as they came. When he appeared on the balcony the applause reached fever heat, handkerchiefs and hats were waved and he was informed that he was a jolly good fellow. At last, it seemed from very exhaustion, the people settled down to hear his speech. 06 01 16b

1906 01 20

An extraordinary incident at the Cambridge election left some Conservatives thinking their candidate had been elected. It may be that the white handkerchief waved from the window of the Guildhall seemed in the glare of the gaslight, to be a pink favour. Great was the jubilation, they cheered and they cheered and one gentleman commenced a congratulatory speech. The shock of the news that the seat had gone to Liberalism was therefore harder to bear when it arrived. Nevertheless the Conservatives gave their champion a stirring reception when he joined them – defeated or not. 06 01 20a

1906 01 31

The new Cambridge Liberal Club premises in Downing Street includes an assembly room with a ladies gallery, reading, smoking and games rooms. But it has nothing that can compensate for the loss of the beautiful garden they enjoyed in their old home at Rance's Folly in St Andrew's Street. It will be formally opened by the Solicitor-General. 06 01 31a

1906 02 03

The length of time over which General Elections are spread is protracted beyond all reason. Before the advent of motor cars considerable time was needed to enable a candidate to make himself known to the electorate but now a week would answer all purposes. A general election could then be over in nine days instead of three weeks and the polling occupy three days instead of a fortnight. 06 02 03a

1906 07 19

Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association held a well-attended meeting in the grounds of The Lodge, Mill Road when addresses were given by Miss Isabella Ford, a prominent suffragist, Mrs Rackham and other local ladies. Women could be guardians or medical officers but could not vote for a representative in Parliament. The grounds, which present a beautiful appearance, proved an ideal venue .06 07 19

1906 10 19

A Cambridge Ratepayer Association was formed: there was deplorable apathy over local government and many councillors resumed their seats without a contest. Members of councils were nominated and their actions controlled by a party. Contracts were given out, not to the lowest tender, but because one man belonged to one party and one to the other. They might run candidates for the town council and board of guardians irrespective of party politics. 06 10 19b

1906 11 06

A large number of supporters of Women's Suffrage met at the Victoria Assembly Rooms, Cambridge, to hear an address by Mrs Henry Fawcett. Dr A. North Whitehead presided and was supported by Miss Kennedy, Mrs Heitland, Mrs James Ward, Mrs Rackham and Dr Westlake, Professor of International Law. Mrs Fawcett said ladies had lobbied the Prime Minister then jumped on the forms, made speeches and waved their flags. They were carried outside by police and as they came out a young factory worker who said 'Votes for Women' was immediately arrested and sent to prison. 06 11 06d & e & g

1907 01 15

When Parliament re-assembles there will be a stupendous effort on behalf of the enfranchisement of women. A canvass is being organised in Cambridge which already includes the heads and staffs of Newnham and Girton Colleges and the Secondary Training Colleges for Women. Small informal drawing-room meetings are being held and addresses on suffrage given to meetings of the Women's Liberal Association and the Co-operative Women's Guild. 07 01 15b

1907 02 15

Suffrage meeting, Cambridge – 07 02 15 [4.17]

1907 02 18

Keir Hardy demonstration – 07 02 18 attempt to prevent Kier Hardy speaking by screwing up door, [1.12]

1907 02 21

The University Vice Chancellor has condemned the undergraduates who wrecked Kier Hardy's meeting at the Guildhall. It is one of the University traditions that honest opinions, however unpopular, should receive a fair hearing. Cambridge is not unsympathetic towards the Labour Party and its leader should have been given a chance of expressing his views. 07 02 21

1907 03 26

During recent elections for St Matthew's Ward one of the Liberal candidates complained about the vicar pulling down Liberal election bills on the walls of York Street School, one of the polling stations. He replied that nobody had the right to fix notices to the property of the Old Schools. Patches of paper remain on the walls for months afterwards leaving a stain it was impossible to remove. Anyway most people had made up their mind before the election how to vote. 07 03 26

1907 05 14

A Women's Suffrage meeting heard that even in Cambridge there were many signs of women's desire for the vote; once they only had one meeting a year, now they were continually having them. Bertrand Russell was contesting Wimbledon in the interests of the movement. They might be proud that the first man to do this was a Cambridge man, and a man of such intellectual distinction. 07 05 14c

1907 07 09

Cambridge Association for Women's Suffrage organised a meeting at Cambridge Guildhall with a series of admirably-delivered speeches by Mrs Fawcett, the Hon Bertrand Russell and others, supported by 80 delegates from across the country. It was said that men had all the logic and women sweetness and morality. But men could not be expected to know everything that women required.

Young women should throw themselves with all the ardour and power they could command on this, one of the very great questions of the world. 07 07 09

1907 12 14

Whatever the detractors say about the ‘unsexed suffragette’, the little band of “pesterers” who visited Cambridge last night amply vindicated their femininity. Mr Haldane, the War Minister’s last memories of our town will not be the ringing cheers of his supporters but the shaken fists of the suffragettes as they shouted ‘Votes for Women’. As his car glided out of Downing Street there was a flutter of petticoats and a liberal display of shapely ankles and the suffragettes were at the windows, shouting their battle cries. 07 12 14d

1907 12 14

Suffragettes, unable to gain admission to the Guildhall, held a meeting outside in the rain. Two ladies from the Women’s Social and Political Union picketed the entrance, distributing leaflets. Then they climbed on a market stall and addressed the crowd. To the credit of Cambridge the ladies were accorded a very fair hearing, but when Mr Keeling of Trinity mounted the platform there was such an uproar that, though his mouth was seen to be moving, not a word could be heard. Later they were surrounded by such a crowd that the police escorted them to a four-wheeler which drove off. 07 12 14 & a

1908 02 25

Cambridge suffragist meeting – 08 02 25c & d

1908 04 22

Henry Campbell-Bannerman death and local connections – 08 04 22 & a

1908 04 25

A large crowd assembled outside the offices of the CDN for news of the Manchester bye election, in which Winston Churchill was defeated. When the result was announced there was much jubilation at the Central Conservative Club. Churchill had promised anything to anybody without the slightest sincerity; let them hope he would never seek re-election again. He had been a brilliant man in the Conservative party at one time and now he was a disgrace to the Liberals. 08 04 25

1908 05 06

Cambridge was badly hoaxed last night about the result of the Wolverhampton election. Inside the CDN the editor was waiting the news when the noise of cheering penetrated the office, but that was no unusual for the crowds waiting outside frequently engage in shouts. When the official message came through Mr Taylor proceeded outside to find nobody there. Practical jokers had already caused a card to be printed with fictitious figures and left outside the News office. If they aimed at creating a sensation, they have succeeded, causing fits of depression among members of the Liberal party 08 05 06

1908 05 11

The personality of Mr Winston Churchill looms so large in the minds of Cambridge politicians that a crowd of about 3,000 waited patiently outside the offices of the CDN to await the result of the Dundee election, where he was returned as a Liberal MP. When one section of the crowd raised a cheer, the opposing section retaliated. It was a great delight to hear an undergraduate, perched on the shoulder of his friends, declaim against Churchill as a turncoat and hear him answered by one of the Liberal turn of mind. Dundee election night will not soon be forgotten 08 05 11

1908 06 19

The greatest demonstration that woman has yet made of her desire for the suffrage was the gigantic procession through the streets of London to the Albert Hall. Ten thousand strong, it comprised almost every class: lady doctors marched with factory girls, famous lady novelists and domestic servants. Cambridge played an active part: about 130 ladies joined in, including Mrs Heitland, Mrs Ward and Mrs Rackham bearing a splendid blue silk banner with in gold lettering ‘Cambridge Women’s

Suffrage Association, founded 1883'. At the Albert Hall both Newnham and Girton colleges took a box, many ladies attired in academic dress 08 06 19 p2 08 06 19 p2

1908 08 21

Members of the Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association, including Mrs Rackham, Mrs Dutt and Mrs Ramsey, visited Whittlesford and Fulbourn canvassing women during the afternoon and arranging an open-air meeting on the green at which the wives bring their husbands. There had been a certain amount of difference of opinion but people have been most friendly and willing to listen.

CWN 08 08 21 p3

1908 11 06

The women candidates for Cambridge borough councillors have quickened interest in the recent elections. All though the day rumours of the arrival of the Pankhurst brigade were flying about with speculation that 50 militant females had arrived from London, but nobody saw any suffragettes. The crowd expressed their pleasure in cheers when it was announced that both the lady candidates, Miss Kennedy who stood in New Town and Miss Philpott who stood in Petersfield, had been defeated

CWN 08 11 06 p3

1908 11 13

A band of militant ladies disrupted a meeting attended by a Cabinet Minister in Cambridge Guildhall when they informed him and an unsympathetic audience that they wanted votes. It was known that members of the warlike organisation of women had arrived, but which of the many well-dressed women present were they? It soon became clear when a slight form crowned by a 'Merry Widow' hat rose from her seat and vomited words like a Gatling gun. They caused a disturbance and a few had the pleasure of being ejected with more or less violence. CWN 08 11 13

1909 01 29

Suffragettes stall on Peas Hill [4.19]

1909 02 19

The meeting organised by the Anti Female Suffrage League in the Guildhall was crowded with many undergraduates who regarded the whole question as a humorous diversion. Speakers were constantly disrupted except from the one lady who was not subjected to a single interruption. Whilst conceding the importance of Women's work in national life it would be dangerous to allow a vote to people lacking the average political knowledge and experience open to men. 09 02 19

1909 05 07

A number of undergraduates played havoc with the meeting of the Cambridge Association for Women's Suffrage. The Corn Exchange has a seating capacity of about 1,500 but by utilising the farmers' desks and standing in every available space, an audience of 2,000 listened to – or interrupted – the arguments. Quite 80 per cent of the meeting was composed of women, of whom Newnham and Girton contributed a considerable quota. But it was the minority whose increasingly violent disruptions caused the meeting to break up in a disorderly manner, though not before the resolutions had been carried by a large majority. 09 05 07

1909 09 10

A gramophone meeting was held at Fen Ditton in support of the Government's budget. Some delay was caused by the gramophone having gone wrong but Mr S. Mallyon lent his machine. First a musical selection was rendered and then recordings of speeches by the Prime Minister (H.H. Asquith), Chancellor of the Exchequer (Lloyd George) and President of the Board of Trade (Mr Winston Churchill) were heard. There was a good attendance of men and youth but the room was not full.

CWN 09 09 10

1909 12 31

As polling dates are fixed both political parties have redoubled their vigour. In Cambridge Mr S.O. Buckmaster spoke at the Gladstone Centenary Dinner at the Cherry Hinton Liberal Club while Almeric Paget has meetings arranged at St Barnabas Institute. The fight in East and West Cambs bids fair to be especially keen with meetings some distance apart. The motor car is a wonderful ally and enables the candidates to set distance and bad roads at naught but it is not conducive to the best of health to be exposed to the vagaries of the climate while travelling at high speed from one hot and crowded meeting room to the next CWN 09 12 31

1910

1910

General Election – candidate's wife hit by egg and stones [1.13]

1910

Debate on Women's Suffrage in 1910, the first time an inter-college debate opened by a woman – 36 01 15 b & c

1910 01 29

total votes in the four County constituencies give Conservatives a majority of one over Liberals, in fact County sends two of each party, January [3.11]

1910 01 07

General election – Barrington, Shelford – 10 01 07a, Over, Fen Drayton – 10 01 14m & n, Soham, Fordham – 10 01 28d, Newmarket, Burwell, Ely – 10 01 28e; Votes for women – suffrage meeting – 10 01 07b & c, 10 01 14b & c, campaign in Cambridge – 10 01 14d

1910 01 07

The Cambridge Women's Suffrage Society scored a great success at a mass meeting in the Guildhall. The place was packed to the doors and there was very little serious interruption. The chair was taken by Mrs Heitland and Mrs Rackham (Poor Law Guardian) urged candidates for the Borough, University and County of Cambridge to do all in their power to secure a measure granting the franchise to women on the same terms as men. Miss Margery Corbett, a former student at Newnham College, was amongst the speakers. CWN 10 01 07b

1910 01 07

The Cambridge branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies works on constitutional lines, using only lawful and orderly methods. Its meeting in the Romsey Council School was a decided success: the speeches were listened to by a crowded audience most attentively, although there were some interruptions and cat-calling from the back of the building. Mrs C.D. Rackham urged the candidates at the forthcoming General Election to support votes for women on the same terms as men. CWN 10 01 07c

1910 01 14

Mr Paget's supporters held a torchlight procession through Regent Street, Emmanuel Road, Fitzroy Street, King Street and St Andrew's Street. Torches of many kinds, some of an evidently hastily prepared character, were held aloft and Mr Paget rode in a carriage in the centre of the procession, which included about 30 horsemen who formed an imposing guard of honour. The Conservative candidate was accompanied by crowds of men, lads and even women and girls, bearing aloft torches, pink lights and Union Jacks, and blowing tin trumpets and whistles. CWN 01 01 14a

1910 01 14

Scenes without parallel in the recent political history of Cambridge were witnessed in connection with the great Liberal demonstration in support of Mr Buckmaster's candidature. The Guildhall could contain but a fraction of the crowds and an overflow meeting had to be held in the Corn Exchange which itself was packed to capacity. At both Mr Buckmaster had a tremendous reception, the

audiences rising en masse and waving hats, handkerchiefs and leaflets and cheering in deafening choruses for several minutes CWN 10 01 14b

1910 01 14

To have filled the large hall at the Guildhall to the very doors and held the attention of a crowded audience for nearly two hours would have been a great score for the Cambridge Union of Women's Suffrage Societies at any time. But to have done so when both political parties are working at high pressure and three big political meetings were being held the same night, was a veritable triumph. Nobody who listened to the clear, forcible, eloquent speeches of the ladies could fail to have been impressed, the few interruptions from the back of the hall being of a very mild and harmless character. But few of those present backed a call for women to have the same right to vote as men. CWN 10 01 14e

1910 01 21

Crowds waited on Cambridge market hill for the results of the election. As the hands of the clock dragged with exasperating slowness, the excitement grew even keener. But by half-past ten even the cheering began to subside. "Wish I'd brought my breakfast" said one ruby-faced gentleman whose appearance suggested that he had dined exclusively on beer. "Blooming long time countin' up nine thawsan' votes" said a Barnwellian. Suddenly the Mayor appeared on the Guildhall balcony with the successful candidate. "Buckie's beaten" was the sentence spoken half unconsciously by scores of Buckmaster's supporters as if the brain refused to grasp the significance of what the eye could see. CWN 10 01 21 & a

1910 01 21

Counting the votes – Cambridge – 10 01 21h

1910 02 04

The polling of the four Cambridgeshire constituencies shows how remarkably evenly balanced are the two great parties: 19,232 being given to the Liberals and 19,233 to the Conservatives – a majority of one! As the county returned members of each colour Cambridgeshire can fairly claim to have secured proportional representation. This curious fact was pointed out by a young schoolgirl who discovered it quite by herself. I have never been an advocate of women's suffrage but think she is much more deserving of a vote than many men I know. Probably by the time she is of age, votes for women will be an accomplished fact. CWN 10 02 04c

1910 05 27

The inaugural meeting of the Cambridge Town Fabian Society heard that members of the University group were scarcely in touch with practical politics being young people whose minds were in a state of flux. The townsfolk had maturer views, were more business-like and in a better position to explain how instalments of Socialism could be brought about immediately. 10 05 27

1910 06 03

Mrs Pankhurst made her first acquaintance with the undergraduate at a meeting organised by the Cambridge University Men's League for Women's Suffrage at the Guildhall. She is used to lively meetings but usually there is some point to the interruptions to which she is subjected. This time the undergraduate section of the audience had come fully determined to turn the meeting into a sort of variety entertainment for their own delectation, and in this they succeeded. She stuck to her guns during her address which lasted, counting the interruptions, for about 70 minutes and then invited questions. About 9.30 a Proctor arrived and one man was led out of the hall, amidst much groaning. 10 06 03f & g

1910 11 04

Advocates of votes for women made their first platform appearance at Gamlingay, a crowded meeting being held in the Boys' Council Schoolroom. Mrs Rackham from Cambridge said she did not believe in the actions of the militant suffragettes. They were not asking for women to go to Parliament but

women were taxed like the men and ought to vote like them. However Mrs Stanley of Merton Grange thought it would be terrible thing if in future England were governed by women. (Applause). It would mean 'petticoat government' and they did not want that. (Applause). The majority of ladies did not want the franchise and 400,000 of them had petitioned against 'votes for women'. The meeting rejected the idea. 10 11 04b

1910 12 09

Mr S.O. Buckmaster, the defeated candidate, left Cambridge by train for London. In deference to his wishes there was nothing in the nature of a demonstration, but a little band of faithful supporters gathered to see him off. He appeared to be in excellent spirits and laughed gaily as he stood on the platform. Mr Buckmaster was quickly recognised by a number of people who crowded round for a parting handshake. When the whistle sounded he took his seat in a first-class compartment. The last farewell was said by a railwayman who jumped on the footboard and rode for some yards with his head thrust in at the window. 10 12 09 also Almeric Paget

1910 12 16

The crowds outside the Shire Hall assembled early for the results of the poll. They stamped their cold feet on the muddy, puddley ground and scowled at the hopeless sky that spread a light unpleasant drizzle. A little girl, doubtful of her right to stand on so important a site, cuddled up closely to a friendly shop window. An errand boy allowed his political ardour to overcome his sense of what is required of express deliveries. He was joined by a butcher's boy, with a liberal show of Conservative colours, who gave his willing assistance in doing nothing to their mutual satisfaction. 10 12 16d

1911

Tom Orrey first Labour candidate in Borough elections, stands for Romsey, comes bottom of poll [5.9]

1911 03

Suffragettes plan to walk streets on census night to avoid being counted; wife of Unitarian minister arrested during suffragette raid on House of Commons [4.9,5.10]

1911 04 07

Cambridge advocates of women's suffrage decided to protest against legislation without representation. A number of people of well-known name and position in the University and town spent the night at the houses of suffragists who had decided to defy the Census and not fill in their papers. One of these was Mrs Vulliamy of Maitland House, Barton Road who is on the Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League. She wrote across her paper 'No vote, no Census' and entertained a house full of ladies. 11 04 07a

1912

Mass meeting of undergraduates form Coal Strike Emergency Committee prepared to work in pits, but strike ends [1.18]

1912

Labour party formed [8]

1912

Big meeting of Cambridge University & Cambridge Town Fabian Societies with Cambridge Labour Party, Labour to contest every seat on Town Council where there is support [3.12]

1912 01 12

Suffrage: Cambridge University Men's League for Women's Suffrage meet University officials [4.11]

1912 03 01

Conservative Women's Franchise Association formed [4.13]

1912 03 08

Adult Suffrage big meeting – 12 03 08a

1912 07 12

Women's suffrage meeting, Market Hill – 12 07 12g

1912 08 02

Whether one is in favour of militancy or not, the courage of those ladies who use it as a means for gaining the vote for women cannot be denied. Two ladies stood on Market Hill on Friday evening and faced the jeers and derision of a gang of rowdy youths who did all they could to make the meeting a farce. Popular songs formed the favourite medium employed for drowning the voices of the speakers and the confusion was heightened by the use of cycle bells and whistles. But Miss Roff and Miss Kate Jarvis persisted and managed to make their arguments audible 12 08 02a

1912 08 02

Great excitement was caused by a noisy scene that took place on Parker's Piece when Mrs Brailsford, the militant suffragist, spoke from a lorry. A large crowd gathered, mostly composed of youths of about 18 years of age who shouted themselves hoarse, then pushed and pulled the lorry about the Piece. When the ride came to an end Mrs Brailsford got off and was followed through the streets by the crowd of boys and children, booing and shouting. 12 08 02c, d

1912 08 16

A considerable crowd on Market Hill witnessed an interesting struggle. An open-air meeting of the Women's Social and Political Union was being held but soon after Miss Kathleen Jarvis began her speech the bells of Great St Mary's struck up a deafening peal. The fair speaker's voice, pleasing but not powerful, was almost completely lost and it was only by her gesticulations that the crowd could see she was still expounding her principles. For something like an hour the unequal contest was maintained. And Miss Jarvis was the winner. A woman who had earned three periods of imprisonment was not to be daunted and was still pouring out a stream of argumentative bullets when the ringers retired - 12 08 16aa & b

1912 08 16

An open air meeting was held at Swavesey in the cause of women's suffrage. The gathering should have been in a field but in consequence of the damp grass it was held on the road. The platform was a chair placed against a gate in Middle Watch and about 70 people attended, young ladies being mainly in evidence. Mrs Rackham's speech was eloquent and moderate in tone but it evoked no enthusiasm; there were no interruptions and no questions at the end. But a few gave in their names as 'friends of women's suffrage' and leaflets were distributed 12 08 16d

1912 10 04

Cambridge Women's Suffrage meeting & petition against forcible feeding – 12 10 04f

1912 10 25

The non-militant Cambridge Association for Women's Suffrage held a well-attended meeting in the Guildhall. 12 10 25d

1912 11 22

Votes for women debate at Union Society – 12 11 22a

1912 12 06

Women's suffrage meeting addressed by Rackham – 12 12 06b

1912 12 06

Mrs Pankhurst visit to Guildhall – opposition – 12 12 06c; advert 12 12 12aa

1912 12 12

Miss M.B. Thomas, M.A. of Huntingdon Road has the distinction of being the first lady in Cambridge to resist paying her taxes on the ground that taxation and representation should go together. At the Spring Inn, Chesterton Road an antique pendant and two gold bracelets will be sold by auction by the Collector of Taxes. This is very unusual: R.B. Catling, the well-known auctioneer was approached but was unwilling to conduct the sale under such circumstances. A few years ago a farmer in Burnt Fen objected to paying the education portion of the poor rate and bought a new wagon to hand over for the purpose of distraint. It was painted red and he intended to have a record of each distraint recorded on a panel in black lettering, buying it back himself. He was convinced that by the time all the panels were filled in, he would be no longer called upon to pay the rate 22 12 12c

1912 12 12

When Mrs Pankhurst arrived for a Suffragette meeting at the Guildhall the streets were impassable, 20 policemen were on duty at the entrance and the air was filled with the horrible stench of stink-bombs. Although the audience comprised a large opposition who created a good deal of uproar, the noise gradually diminished as her speech advanced and she was perfectly audible. Georgina Brackbenbury who took the chair had more interruption by the sound of a penny trumpet; its owner was a musician who produced notes mournful or joyous according to her words and achieved a flourishing Reveille. Afterwards crowds ringed a motor car waiting outside the Wheeler Street entrance, which had one of its tyres deflated. But Mrs Pankhurst was quietly conducted out by the Guildhall Street entrance and to the Lion Hotel. 12 12 12c & d & e

1912 12 20

The Cambridge branch of the Friends of the Soviet Union held an enjoyable social at the new Left Book Club rooms in Falcon Yard at which two Russian silent films were shown. The first, 'Oil Symphony' gave an account of the tapping of some of the country's vast oil resources, while the second recounted the construction of the Baltic-White sea canal. There was also an interesting exhibition of modern Russian craft work. Copies of photographs sent to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Socialist regime were given as prizes in competitions and dances 12 12 20e

1913 01 10

Writing to the Mayor from Chateau de la Garoupe, Antibes, France, Almeric Paget MP says: As you may be aware, I have been obliged under doctor's orders to absent myself from Parliamentary duties for some weeks past. It is on my conscience that I am drawing a salary which I am unable to earn and I now ask you to accept my last quarter's Parliamentary salary of £100 to be given in aid of whatever local charities you think most deserving of assistance 13 01 10 p4 CIPof

1913 02 21

Suffrage debate interrupted by undergraduates 13 02 21 p7 CIP

1913 02 21

Women's suffrage annual meeting – 13 02 21 p3 CIP

1913 03 07

Mrs Pankhurst, leader of the militant suffragists addressed a meeting at the Blue Boar Hotel. A gramophone in the window of an undergraduate's room was playing the Dead March as she entered the hotel but there was no demonstration. A vigorous anti-suffrage campaign has also been conducted with meetings at Newnham Croft and Fen Ditton disagreeing with votes for women. If women ever sat in Parliament they would insist on a debate on the flannelette question before consideration of foreign policy. 13 03 07 p4

1913 04 25

Sir Charles Rose, the Liberal MP for East Cambs, died with tragic suddenness in his motor car as he was returning from Hendon Aerodrome where he had taken a flight in a biplane. It had circled at a

moderate height for seven minutes and on landing he said he had enjoyed the trip. The Coroner ruled that the excitement and exhaustion of the new experience had brought on a heart failure. An aeroplane was not suitable for those getting on in years. Aeroplaning should be left to the young, vigorous and robust. Sir Charles might have survived many years had he lived a placid and quiet existence. 13 04 25 p10 CIP

1913 05 09

Politics – women’s suffrage bill defeated; women vote speaker heckled by undergraduate 13 05 09 p04 CIP

1913 05 16

Suffragists speaking at the Rutland Hall Newmarket were interrupted by shouting, booing and the singing of ‘I want to go to Dixie’ and ‘Have a banana’. Then a percussion cracker was thrown against the wall, sounding like a revolver shot. Afterwards the ladies were escorted out of the back door by police to where a motor was waiting. In Cambridge an attempt was made to set fire to the Varsity Rugby pavilion using an improvised bomb in a mustard tin. A card reading ‘Votes for Women’ was found nearby together with a ladies shoe, left when she hurried away after lighting the fuse. And a sensation was caused at a leading Cambridge hotel when a square paper parcel labelled ‘Votes for Women’ was discovered in the lounge. It was quickly removed to a place of safety but on examination was found to contain nothing more explosive than a block of wood 13 05 16 p4, 7, 12 CIP

1913 05 23

Ratepayers’ Association formed 13 05 23 p6 CIP

1913 05 23

Two fires attributed to suffragettes occurred in the small hours of Saturday morning in the newly-completed houses in Storey’s Way. One was almost completely destroyed but the other, being erected for the Balfour Professor of Genetics, was extinguished before much damage was done. In it were found clues which led to the arrest of a Norwich school teacher. One was a gold watch and the other blood stains on the broken glass of window. The suspect had a cut on her finger 13 05 23 p7 & 8 CIP

1913 05 30

Suffragettes attempted to blow up a railway crossing gate at Granhams Road, Shelford. The gatekeeper found a treacle tin with a bootlace through the lid connecting with a long red squib inside. It was surrounded by cotton wool soaked in oil and lumps of charcoal. On the outside was written ‘Votes for Women’. There is little doubt it was a genuine article that could have set fire to the gate had the lighted lace not gone out. It was immersed in a bucket of water. Rumours said that two strange women had been seen near the site 13 05 30 p11 CIP

1913 06 06

Suffragette Pratt trial for Storeys Way fires 13 06 06 p8 CIP

1913 06 08

Suffragette outrage re painting gate St Johns college etc was hoax by three undergraduates of St Johns including Sutherland, lady’s shoe deliberately planted; some of inscription visible on right of gateway till creeper grew over it after WWII [CWN 8.6.1989]

1913 06 20

Suffrage attack St John’s college library 13 06 20 p8 CIP

1913 07 04

Women’s suffrage meeting Market Hill - 13 07 04 p4 CIP

1913 07 25

Suffrage pilgrimage in Cambridge; non-militants' efforts 13 07 25 p5 CIP

1913 07 25

A film of great interest is being shown at the Picture Playhouse. Mill Road, special pictures having been taken by the theatre's own operator of the suffrage procession in Cambridge. The film is 230 feet long and depicts incidents of the arrival of the pilgrims on Saturday and the departure from Cambridge on Monday. Many other attractive pictures are included in the week's programme and the fine selection of classical and popular music played by Max Bennett and his clever orchestra adds much to the enjoyment of the audience 13 07 25 p7 CIP

1913 07 25

Suffragette meeting, Market Hill - 13 07 25 p12 CIP

1913 08 01

Suffrage pilgrims air experiences 13 08 01 p7 CIP

1913 08 07

Trades union demonstration on Parker's Piece: 1,100 take part, march Romsey to New Town, call for minimum wages of 30/- (£1.50) per week & 8 hour day. Council ban erection of platform & this seen as attack on the rally [1.19]

1913 08 15

Mrs Rackham amongst suffragettes visit PM - 13 08 15 p6 CIP

1913 08 15

Militant suffragettes Market Hill meeting - 13 08 15 p7 CIP

1913 08 29

Militant suffragists Market Hill 13 08 29 p5 CIP

1913 10 17

At the Assizes the top gallery was filled with women when a suffragette was accused of setting fire to a house in Storey's Way. She denied having started the blaze but had been at the site and dropped her watch. It was identified by her uncle, a Norwich policeman. Pink flannelette smelling strongly of paraffin had been wound round a ladder and set alight. Her coat smelled of paraffin. She asked the jury: "Do I look like a person who would go about with flannelette and cans of petrol and set fire to houses". She was convicted. 13 10 17 p8

1913 10 24

Suffragette Pratt released after hunger strike 13 10 24 p8 CIP

1913 11 21

Mrs Pankhurst, suffragette, invited to speak Cambridge, refused use Guildhall 13 11 21 p7 CIP

1913 11 21

Suffragette protest at Corporation service 13 11 21 p8 CIP

1913 11 21

Mrs Rackham speaks on suffragettes 13 11 21 p9 CIP

1913 12 19

Cambridge women's suffrage deputation to prospective Cambridge Liberal candidate 13 12 19 p8 CIP

1914 02 13

"Brawling" in Church. Interruptions in Divine Service were made at Holy Trinity Church, St. Matthew's Church and the Friends' Meeting House by militant suffragettes. Militant methods of madness have already put a brake on the advancement of an. excellent movement and the disturbance of church worshippers is no argument in favour of votes for women 14 02 13 CIPof

1914 03 27

Miss Ethel Sargent, the well-known botanist of Girton College, enjoys the distinction of being the first woman to hold the office of President of any section of the British Association. But she is refusing to pay the King's Taxes as a protest against being taxed without having a vote. Articles, including microscopic accessories and Zeiss lenses were seized and sold by auction on the Green at Girton. It is the third such sale since 1912 14 03 27b & c

1914 03 27

H.G. Whibley resigns leadership of the Liberal party in the borough – profile – 14 03 27h

1914 05 08

Although there was a crowd of 2,000 at the annual demonstration of the Cambridge Trades Union on Parker's Piece on Sunday afternoon, everything was exceedingly quiet and orderly, the speeches were mild almost to dullness and did not provoke the smallest opposition. The resolution in favour of a 48 hours' working week and a minimum wage of thirty shillings was carried. It remained for the irrepressible suffragettes to create the only diversion, but even that was mild. 14 05 08d [1.9,2.2]

1914 05 08

Suffrage meeting on Parker's Piece told Government employs women at lesser wages than men – 14 05 08e

1914 05 29

The work of Suffrage Societies in the Eastern Federation has grown so much that reorganisation is needed. The Hon Sec for Cambridgeshire is Mrs Heitland, who with Miss Garlick as organiser is arranging meetings in North Cambs villages represented in Parliament by an anti-suffragist, the Hon. Neil Primrose. At Chatteris the Picture Palace was filled with other meetings in Whittlesey & Wisbech. Two ardent Cambridge suffragists, Miss Ida Freud, later lecturer at Newnham College and Miss Smith of Hills Road, are much missed. Nine labourers were fined for disturbing a meeting at St Neots by shouting, dancing and singing. 14 05 29c

1914 06 12

Something of a sensation was caused when it became known that the plan of campaign of the Suffragettes included the burning down of King's College chapel together with the Bodleian Library at Oxford, Lichfield Cathedral and Stratford-upon-Avon church. This was revealed by 'The Standard' which claims to have possession of important information relating to the militants' plans, 1914 06 12 p6

1914 06 12

Union Society supports women's suffrage, 1914 06 12 p9

1914 06 26

Women's suffrage campaign 14 06 26 p10

1914 08 14

Suffragette amnesty - 14 08 14 p2

1914 10 30

Cambridge Women Suffragette Association has published a leaflet 'How to Help in Cambridge in time of war' listing organisations rendering public service. It includes the local branches of the National Relief Fund Committee and the Soldiers and Sailors' Families Association, relieving distress

and supporting dependents of men serving. The Red Cross Society conveys wounded to the First Eastern Hospital and supplies blankets. Others are the Ladies' Recruiting Committee, the Sidgwick School of Needlework and the Charity Organisation Society 14 10 30

1915 02 05

Cambridge Liberal Association headquarters at Asquith House, 270 Mill Road opened 15 02 05

1915 02 12

Cambridge branch of Union of Democratic Control formed with Bertrand Russell in the chair 15 02 12

1915 08 27

Women and war: lecture by Mrs Rackham at Suffrage summer school; Bertrand Russell lectures 15 08 27 p7

1915 09 03

Suffragette summer school, Bertrand Russell lectures 15 09 03 p4

1916 05 13

Pankhurst addresses University Nonconformist Union, 'once healthy now residue of pacifists & conscientious objectors' [5.20]

1917

Labour win seat on borough council [8]

1917 06

Representation of the People Act brings drastic changes. Parliamentary Borough enlarged and remainder divided into two divisions, Isle of Ely and Cambridgeshire, reducing representation by one member [1.26]

1917 07 25

M.P. Resigns. We live in stirring times (says a leader writer), and when we went to Press last week no one in Cambridge had the least idea that in 24 hours our Member (Mr Almeric Paget) would have resigned his seat in order to make way for Sir Eric Geddes, the newly-appointed First Lord of the Admiralty. However it has come to pass and we are assured that the extreme haste with which this momentous change has come about was entirely due to political necessity, and in no way can our retiring Member be blamed for not taking his constituents into his confidence any earlier. Mr. Paget carries with him the cordial good wishes of all the Unionists, and, we venture to think, of nearly all the Radical Party, in his retirement from the Membership of this historic Borough, which he has so ably represented for nearly eight years 17 07 25 CIPof

1918 02 09

Women get voting rights: franchise for all women over 30 who local government electors or wives of such, local franchise as above plus those 21-30 who tenants in own right [5.21]

1918

Number of parliamentary voters rises to 25,000 [3.7]

1918 10 09

Women citizens association on warpath - year had seen enfranchisement of women & so form committees to work in wards to find candidates for elections; problems of women gaining membership county council — even when no opposition councillors elected somebody else Ch 1918 Oct 9 p5

1918 12 18

Election day pictures - Mrs Percy Muggleton whose husband is in France was the first woman to record her vote at stroke of 8 at Richmond Rd school Ch 18 12 18 p7

1919 03

Cambridge University Socialist Society meeting broken up by undergraduates and naval officers [2.4]

1919 04 23

Sir Eric Geddes MP for Cambridge – cartoon and appreciation – 19 04 23b

1919 11 05

Railwaymen's leader J.H. Thomas visits, speaks of loyalty and enthusiasm of railwaymen during strike and how Labour was determined to soon run the country – 19 11 05a photo – 19 11 05c

1919 12 17

Bolshevik propaganda in Cambridge; was meeting ... tissue of lies ... extract from pamphlet – 19 12 17d

1920

1920 02 03

Union of Democratic Control attempted to hold 'Bolshevik' meeting but disrupted by undergraduates; senior proctor, T.R. Glover, hit by flour bomb; speaker Norman Angell rescued by police – Ch 20 02 03d

1920 03 10

From outbreak of war have been pacifists proclaiming against action taken against Germans who would have moved heaven and earth to bring war to early conclusion. They possess not a spark of British pluck ... led to Cambridge gaining reputation as hotbed of Pacifism. University tried to stop this vile work; now opposition to such pro-German propaganda and return of pacifist Bertrand Russell to Trinity. Should prohibit pacifist meetings – Ch 20 03 10d

1920 06 02

Beaconsfield Conservative Club pay off debt – Ch 20 06 02a

1920 12 01

Bolshevism in Cambridge – Comrade Stewart, a bewiskered paid Bolshevik agitator and organiser of the Communist Party at meeting on Parker's Piece – Ch 20 12 01a

1920 12 08

British Empire Union branch established in fight against Bolsheviks – Ch 20 12 08d

1921 10 12

'Cambridge Unemployed' – Labour Party demonstration Parker's Piece – photos – 21 10 12b

1922

League of Nations rally attracts children [Misc.6.7]

1922 02 22

Sir Eric Geddes, MP, retires a short time after Election, has been no contested by-election for 50 years [3.10]

1922 03 14

An election always holds out the promise of excitement and although Cambridge is noted for its excitable nature and the present three-cornered fight (a by-election) has given plenty of opportunities, it has been one of the quietest elections on records. Cambridge awoke to an eventful day and even

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the least political-minded had the election forced on their notice by placards and photographs of the candidates in windows, on hoardings and on walls. Conservative enthusiasts had whitewashed "Vote for Newton" in two-foot letters on the pavements and were not particular where they did it. Perhaps the most noticeable were across the front door of the Central Liberal Club in Downing-street and it was not until mid-day that the inmates managed to erase the conflicting advice. The children have at least entered into the spirit of the thing and the old election songs to the tune of "Tramp, tramp, tramp, the boys are marching" have been dragged from their respective retirement. The candidates' names being all of two syllables have proved adaptable to the rhyme. "Vote, vote, vote for Mr Morgan (or Mr Dalton) have satisfied the requirements of the song whilst the trouble of Sir Douglas' one-syllable title have been overcome by referring to him as "Duggie Newton 22 03 14

1922 07 29

"No more war" demonstration held [2.6]

1922 07 31

The "No More War" demonstration held on Parker's Piece, Cambridge, was attended by a gratifying measure of success. The procession extended more than half the length of Gonville-place, and the crowd at the meetings held on the Piece afterwards was so large that the two platforms provided were not sufficient, and a motor-car had to be requisitioned for the purposes of a third meeting. In addition to the banners of the various societies there were numerous bearing inscriptions such as "For Peace and Freedom" (Women's International League), "Patriotism is not enough", "Cambridge Sisterhood says No More War". In addition there were scores of bannerettes bearing the words "No More War". Mrs Nevinston referred to the number of deaths from influenza in 1918 which was really a war plague. They kept the memory of the dead alive but did they remember the maimed, the blind, shell-shocked and the mad?. No one was worrying about those men 22 07 31

1922 11 18

Undergraduates - both male and female - took a prominent part in the parliamentary election contest. I learn that 212 undergraduates and students of Newnham and Girton registered their names as volunteers, and a large number ably assisted the Conservatives in the County, Borough and University contests. Their help was particularly valuable in the County as flying motor columns were organised for visits to remote villages, where the villagers were assembled by the ringing of a bell and addresses were given by some of the undergraduates, whilst others distributed literature or canvassed voters 22 11 18

1923 12 15

We are likely to hear a great deal more about proportional representation in the near future than we have in the past, but I am afraid the country will be chary of adopting it in view of the hopeless confusion that seems to exist in those places where the system is already in force. Five years ago, after the first instance of P.R. in Cambridge University I remarked that the general feeling was one of bewilderment. Now in 1923 we have much the same mistake. A system which has caused as much confusion in one of the leading universities after five years' experience would want a mighty lot of explaining to rural divisions 23 12 15

1924 11 27

Mr Mettlebury gave a short sketch of the beginnings of Fascism in Cambridge. It had started with a group of men who went with St Douglas Newton at election time to ensure him a good hearing. Some were merely there in the hope of a 'scrap' but others had ideals. After this group had formed into the Cambridge Fascist Society assistance had been offered to various candidates, including Mr Firth as Constitutional Labour Candidate, to ensure them a hearing free from organised rowdiness. He felt confident that British Fascism in Cambridge would prevail 24 11 27

1924 12 04

Stormy scenes were witnessed at the meeting of the Cambridge Trades Council and Labour Party when a resolution preventing Communists, Liberals and Conservatives from being delegates was discussed. Mr Overton explained there was no Communist party in Cambridge until March 1923. A long and bitter fight had occurred at every meeting over some phase of Communist work and this had gone on for 12 months. It got so bad that the Committee received letters from several trade unionists asking them to put a stop to the trouble. There was such a great difference between the Communist Party and the Labour Party as to make it impossible for them to work in the same organisation. 24 12 04

1925 10 15

Speaking at the dance organised by the National Fascisti at Cambridge its President made an appeal for more University members of the party. It was not an organisation of hooligans but advocated that this country should be ruled entirely by those of British birth and British descent and not by aliens. They were not prepared to allow Jews to join. They had the courage of their convictions and were prepared, if necessary, to meet force by force. The dance was an unqualified success. There were close on 300 present 25 10 15

1925 12 23

Fascisti at Rendezvous, 25 12 23 p5

1926 04 19

Mr J. Ramsey Macdonald, M.P., the leader of the Labour Party visited Cambridge and laid the foundation stone of the Labour Club and Hall in Romsey Town. A meeting in Romsey Council School was crowded with an enthusiastic audience. A brisk sale was done in red rosettes and on the table was a vase of magnificent red geraniums. Over the platform was a banner bearing the words "Labour offers you true friendship". In the evening he attended a dinner in the Lion Hotel where he spoke mainly on the achievements of the Labour Party 26 04 19 [2.5, 5.16]

1926 05 01

The Trade Union Congress has decided upon a general stoppage of the vital services at Midnight on Monday. The London Gazette declares that a state of national emergency exists; the distribution of food, water, fuel and the essentials of life are threatened. Mr Lloyd George, who came down to Cambridge to deliver an address, said they were under the shadow of a great industrial conflict of unknown magnitude. Every citizen would feel it was his duty to support the Government of the day in the organisation and facilitating of the essential services of the nation.

1926 05 03

Cambridge is the administrative centre for East Anglia for the arrangements being made to meet the National Strike emergency. Mr F. Morris Warren of St Ives is the district coal officer. There are three Food Officers who will deal with complaints relating to the supply of provisions. The big job of the moment is the securing and registering of volunteers willing to help in any way with the maintenance of essential services and supplies with a recruiting office in the Guildhall. The Mayor of Cambridge, Ald Edward O. Brown, said: "Today we stand on the edge of an important crisis in the history of our nation. A dark cloud is overshadowing the life of our people. I appeal to all our people to prepare for sacrifice, and remain steady. God grant it may be averted 26 05 03

1926 05 03

A public meeting organised by the Cambridge Trades Council, the Labour Party and the Co-operative Party was held on Parker's Piece and for an hour and a half speeches were addressed from two red wagons to a crowd numbering about 5,000. They were for the most part attired in red hats, scarves and rosettes and almost encircled by red banners. Lloyd George had said when the miners came back from the war they would find a country fit to live in but they had been asked to accept a reduction in wages and an increase in hours. Socialists were out to help the poorer classes. The meeting closed with the singing of the Red Flag 26 05 03

1925 05 04

Large crowds witnessed the Cambridge Labour and Co-operative Party's May Day demonstration on Parker's Piece. It was addressed by E.V. Watering. He said the cement workers had been on strike for eight weeks and not a single man had retracted because they had received magnificent support from the Labour movement. At a recent meeting of the Cambridge section of the Fascisti movement he had been alluded to as a "breeder of strikes". So far as the Shepreth dispute was concerned he denied that statement. The strike was brought about by the directors of the East Anglian Cement Company and only after every possible avenue leading to arbitration had been wiped away that the men forced the issue by striking 25 05 04

1926 02 13

Mr John James Withers, C.B.E., was elected Member of Parliament for the University of Cambridge. The Vice-Chancellor attended at the Senate House between the hours of 10 and 11 to receive nominations, Mr Withers was the only person nominated and at 11 o'clock declared him duly elected. A small body of interested members of the University was present and Mr Withers turned up in time to hear his election announced 26 02 13

1926 03 29

Something of the progress of Trade Unionism in Cambridge was indicated at a meeting of the Workers Union at which 150 members participated. Twelve years ago there was hardly any trade unionism in the town, with the exception of the craft unions. Agricultural workers had met with tremendous disappointments. The Wages Board had sent the wages of agricultural labourers up from 12s (60p) a week up to £2. Then had come the scrapping of the Board, wages went down to 25s (£1.25) and the worker was faced with the wreck and ruin of his home. The men had lost faith in trade unions 26 03 29

1926 04 10

Steps are being taken to set up an "Organisation for Maintenance of Supplies" committee in Cambridge. It is a non-political organisation for enrolling and classifying lists of volunteers for the use of the Government in the regrettable event of a general stoppage of the essential public services. One may be quite sure that such volunteers would be readily forthcoming in a grave emergency, but for the sake of efficiency it is thought better to have personnel ready beforehand. It does not question the right to strike but exists to prevent the mass of the population being victimised by a far-reaching strike that affects the well-being of the community 26 04 10

1926 04 13

An "Organisation for Maintenance of Supplies" Committee for Cambridge was the outcome of a meeting held at Christ's College, its aim being to enlist and classify volunteers for the use of the Government in the event of a general stoppage of the essential public services. The questioners included Coun W. Few, President of the Cambridge Trades Council and Labour party who declined to allow his name to go forward as a member of the Executive Committee 26 04 13

1926 05 03

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1926 05 08

Cambridge station looked exceptionally bright this morning. Undergraduates in gaily coloured blazers added colour to the scene. The train services are gradually improving and great keenness had been shown on the part of undergraduates in bringing down supplies from London for the Station refreshment room. Tilly, the popular little tea shop girl, remarked while serving hot coffee and doughnuts to hungry undergraduates that she had never seen such cheerful and plucky workers as the volunteers who visited her counter during the General Strike 26 05 08

1926 05 08

The effects of the general strike were brought more closely home than hitherto. In many a Cambridge home the housewife found she had less to "manage on" and tradesmen large and small found their takings considerably decreased in consequence. Parties of undergraduates who had been doing volunteer work were seen coming home for a Sunday rest carrying kit bags over their shoulders. The University has further postponed examinations so that a clear three weeks interval for study will be allowed after the present emergency has ended. A further contingent of 30 undergraduates left in cars to take up tramway services in Hull; the windscreens were protected with wire netting 26 05 08

1926 05 10

Five hundred of the Civil Constabulary reserve, mostly undergraduates, left Cambridge early this morning for duty in the East End of London. An advance party of 100 went off yesterday. The journey was made by road, the procession of cars stretching for a distance of nearly a mile. In addition some are cleaning carriages at Paddington and Waterloo stations and others unloading cargo at Tilbury Docks. A large number are at dock work and engineering jobs at Hull, while a small contingent is at Grimsby employed at the quayside. A number of Girton and Newnham girls are working as cyclist messengers in the district 26 05 10

1926 05 12

When the news of the end of the General Strike was broadcast on Market Hill, Cambridge enthusiastic cheers broke out. "What rotten luck!" an undergraduate was heard to remark, "I only started work to-day and was looking forward to driving a lorry up to Town". "Never mind, old boy", cynically replied his companion, "They'll be out again in a few weeks". "I'm glad it's all over", remarked a flapper, and then added demurely, "All the 'Varsity boys will be coming back". In many parts of the town children were carrying flags within two hours of receiving the news 26 05 12

1926 05 13

The situation was quiet at Romsey Town this morning, the railwaymen concerned in the new crisis patiently waiting developments which are taking place between the railway companies and the various unions in London. At the Co-operative Hall a telegram was read instructing the Cambridge men to remain out on strike until the unions got satisfactory assurance with regard to the men's reinstatement 26 05 13

1926 05 18

The Cambridge Joint Emergency Committee wish to place on record their gratitude to the many friends who have helped the men who were on strike; the ministers and clergy who lent rooms and the members of the University who gave lectures and concerts, helped in the club rooms and took parties to see the colleges. Many lent their cars to distribute the "British Worker". By means of the Strike Fund the committee have been able to relieve many cases of distress. The last gathering took place in the Co-operative Hall which was crowded with hundreds of women who enjoyed their entertainment 26 05 18

1926 06 01

Now that the excitement of the General Strike has passed away it may be of interest to note the effect of the strike upon local employment. Messrs Pye have only had about 2½ days short time but at the Cement Works the coal difficulty has resulted in a spell of enforced idleness for some of the hands. The Saxon Company's employees are being given their usual holidays on full pay and since short time started have been given work turn and turn-about on repairs but unless the coal comes along there will be no more work for the present 26 06 01

1926 06 02

Mr Ramsay Macdonald, ex-Labour Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition will not be one of the recipients of honorary degrees at Cambridge. His name was included in the Grace to come before the Senate but certain members intended to "Non Placet" it & a flysheet was to be issued declaring this intention. News to this effect reached Macdonald who signified that he did not wish it to go forward unless it was absolutely unanimous. Opposition was more or less spontaneous because he was a party to an illegal act in bringing about the General Strike 26 06 02

1926 06 15

One of the contingents of Women Peacemakers who are converging on London from various parts of the country arrived in Cambridge. Meetings had been held in village after village by the side of the war memorials. They were met by members of the local Pilgrimage Committee and proceeded to the Market Hill where an impromptu meeting was held. They carried various banners and red and blue flags. Mrs Rackham said the gathering recalled the great Women's Suffrage Pilgrimage of 1913 when crowds gathered on the same spot. The Pilgrims leave for Saffron Walden tomorrow 26 06 15

1926 06 16

A meeting of the Women's Peacemakers' Pilgrimage was attended by a large audience at Cambridge Guildhall. In the next war they would have aeroplanes dropping poisonous bombs that would destroy civilians who had never been near the firing line. They must create such an atmosphere of repugnance that the nations dare not go to war. There were hundreds of people in Newmarket who were not yet converted to the idea of the League of Nations and it was their duty to make converts of all who had not yet joined them 26 06 16

1926 11 27

The Cambridge Central Conservative Club in Market Passage was gutted by fire in the early hours of the morning. There were a large number of trade premises nearby and the task of saving the club, with flames nearly 100 feet high, appearing a hopeless one the Fire Brigade concentrated on confining the conflagration to the one building. Had there been a strong wind a centre of shopping would have been destroyed. The Central Hall, which had been booked for many social events for months ahead, suffered severely. The billiards room, which contained four splendid tables also suffered considerably; two of the tables fell through the floor. The club was opened in February 1888

1927 03 03

An important step in the activities of the Cambridge Trades Council and Labour Party was taken when approval was given for the purchase of premises in Norfolk Terrace for party headquarters at a cost of £975. The building was a substantial one with a very large hall & offices. There was a large piece of ground suitable for a bowling green. They could have a hall over the top of the present building and convert the bottom portion into a really up-to-date club. It would serve as a real "home" for members of the party. 27 03 03

1927 04 23

There is quite a fluttering in the political dovecotes of Cambridge over the Government's decision to give the Parliamentary vote to women at 21 on the same terms as men. This may produce as many as 15,000 new votes. The strongest criticism comes from Cambridge Conservatives who fear for the effects on their own prospects at the poll. In the county very few young girls remain in the country but take up positions in the towns and so do not come on the county registers. Seeing the new bill would

bring in women nine years younger, and in addition a number of women of 30 years of age who have not now got the vote, it is estimated the number of new women electors at 5,000. 27 04 23

1927 05 14

Oswald Moseley, MP for Smethwick, jeered at Guildhall meeting [2.9]

1927 07

Anti-war demonstration Parkers Piece [456.2.7]

1927 09 29

Members of the Cambridge Labour Party showed a justifiable pride in their new “home” which was officially opened by their prospective Parliamentary candidate. A somewhat dilapidated one-storey building in Norfolk Terrace, latterly used as a knitting factory, has been transformed in a wonderful way into bright, comfortable and well-equipped premises, although the walls are unfinished owing to the plaster not yet having been set sufficiently. 27 09 29

1927 10 22

An extremely lively meeting was held at Matthew’s Café in connection with the Cambridge University Labour Club’s first meeting. Mr Jack Jones, M.P. was the speaker. The room was overflowing with undergraduates and women students of various political sections. Sugar was thrown, red flags exhibited and cries of “We want Jones” contributed to the general laughter and talking. Although interrupted countless times he managed to make his audience listen to what he had to say. 27 10 22

1927 12 17

Cambridge Conservatives who, following the disastrous fire in Market Passage in November last year, have been accommodated in temporary club premises in Petty Cury, returned to the splendid new club which Phoenix-like has risen from the ashes of the old premises. As before there is a fine lounge billiard room with four tables on the top floor, and a fine lounge and smokeroom with secretary’s office and card room adjoining. Two new rooms will be used as a reading and writing room and a committee room. The colour scheme is brown and buff. The ground floor is not yet complete but will consist of a large hall with a spring dance 27 12 17 [2.10, 3.2]

1928 02

Cherry Hinton Constitutional Club new building opened, February [2.11]

1928 03 01

An interesting debate on “the flapper vote” was held at the Liberal Assembly Rooms, Cambridge. In many spheres of life women were giving valuable service yet they could not have the vote until they were 30 years of age. But the modern girl knew practically nothing about politics. Give the woman of 21 the vote and they would out-vote the men – was that fair? (“Yes”). If women got the vote then the country would only be just “flapping” about. The vote should be used properly and a group of giggling girls could not do that. 28 03 01

1928 07 21

Annual peace demonstration on Parkers Piece [1.11]

1928 10 08

“Ain’t it all right and all”, jubilantly exclaimed a man in working attire after looking round the new Cambridge Labour Club at Romsey Town. This remark expresses the general appreciation of the handsome and well-appointed new premises which have been built in their spare time by members of the various trade union organisations to provide the Labour Party with a home of its own. It is nearly 2½ years since the foundation stone was laid by Mr Ramsey MacDonald and since then work has been going on steadily on nights and Sunday afternoons. The men have been putting their hearts as

well as their backs into the work and the result is a club-house of which the builders may well be proud. 28 10 08 [2.12, 5.16]

1928 12 12

Women having been granted the Parliamentary vote the Cambridge Committee for Equal Citizenship celebrated this great event. Invitations were sent out to all members of the Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association to meet Dame Millicent Fawcett at Newnham College. There was a very large attendance. Mrs Bethune-Baker traced the history of the movement in Cambridge. Among the first subscribers were the Mayor and Vice Chancellor but the cause fell on evil days. Members of the voteless sex had stood all day at polling booths on a wet day and undergraduates had tried to force their way into a meeting at the Guildhall. 28 12 12

1929 02 05

The latest form of political propaganda, the Conservative's touring 'Talkifilm' is visiting Cambridge. The programme includes a speech by the Prime Minister which gives an uncanny effect of realism and a silent film showing the opening up of Canada. The van will visit Pound Hill, the Premier Hall Chesterton and Occupation Road, winding up at Cherry Hinton Road corner 29 02 05

1929 02 18

The North East Coast contingent of the unemployed marchers who are making their way to London arrived in Cambridge. Carrying banners, singing old war songs and rattling collecting boxes they entered the town via Huntingdon Road. The local Labour Party and Trades Council having decided not to give them official recognition the 88 marchers proceeded direct to the Poor Law Institution, Mill Road, where the staff had made preparations for them. They were given Irish stew and entertained at their private cinema installation. 29 02 18

1929 06 19

Ramsey MacDonald prime minister surprise visit Cambridge – 29 06 19 p5

1930

1930 07 21

The annual 'No More War' meeting of the Cambridge Peace Council was held indoors instead of on Parker's Piece because of heavy rain. But accompanied by the Boys' Brigade Band they proceeded with drenched banners through the rain-swept streets. They met to ensure the catastrophe of 1914 did not occur again. One must remember the menace from the air. It was possible to turn civil aircraft into war craft and chemical factories into works for the manufacture of poison gases and lethal rays. 30 07 21g

1930 11 26

William Henry Williams, the 'grand old man' of Liberalism, came to Cambridge in 1880 as agent to the Liberal Association and won the respect of political friend and foe alike. He played a prominent part in Mr Stanley Buckmaster's victory over Almeric Paget in 1905. He was elected to the County Council in 1898 and returned in 1919. Even after his retirement he rendered valuable service and retained a keen interest in local politics until the end. 30 11 26

1931 04 03

The National Tithepayers Association protested against what is widely regarded as an unjust tax on agricultural land. Owen Webb said the tithe was a burden impossible for the land to carry. During these difficult times of depression, when farmers were struggling to keep their heads above water in the face of terrible drops in commodity and grain prices it was an inverted food tax on the industry; there was no justification from an economic or religious point of view 31 04 03c & d

1931 05 22

Dr Alex Wood of Emmanuel College is chairman of the Cambridge Peace Council. He was a Conscientious Objector exempted from active service during the Great War on condition he carried on ambulance work and became commandant of a Red Cross hospital. He joined the Labour Party and in 1926 was elected to Cambridge Borough Council. At the last general election he contested the University seat but was not successful. 31 05 22b

1931 06 05

D.R. Hardman resigns as Labour party candidate – 31 06 05d

1931 10 19

Cambridge Labour Party adopted Dr Alex Wood as their parliamentary candidate. It was going to be a fight between Socialism and anti-Socialism. On the one hand it was a country of wealth, position and tradition, on the other there were millions of hard-working people who found it a struggle to get on, he told them. 31 10 19f

1931 10 30

Captain Briscoe and one of his supporters in wheelchair – photo – 31 10 30c

1932 02 03

Cambridge Young Men's Christian Association cancelled the letting of their hall to an exhibition on education in Soviet Russia. Amongst the exhibits were anti-religious posters which upset several prominent clergymen who wrote to the News protesting. The organisers are looking for another hall so the exhibition can continue. 32 02 03

1932 07 23

John Cornford memorial meeting attended by Communists, socialist, labour, liberals and Bevan – 32 07 23b & c

1932 09 30

Members of the National Unemployed Workers' Movement organised a meeting opposite a house in New Street, Cambridge in the interests of a resident who was threatened with eviction. The man was a rag and bone dealer with two children whose application for relief from the Public Assistance Committee had been refused on the grounds that he was not starving. A Defence Committee was formed to oppose his ejection and a demonstration will be arranged on Parker's Piece 32 09 30bb (picture 32 09 30d)

1932 10 26

The Moscow March of young men arrive "dupes of the Communist Party and Moscow agitators" [1.9]

1932 10 28

Hunger marchers at Cambridge – picture – 32 10 28f

1932 11 04

Romsey Labour Club celebrated its 21st anniversary. In the early days everyone in the movement was a worker, unfortunately as the party grew in numbers the percentage of workers became less and they had to be 'up and doing' if they were to bring about the new social order of things. In 1911 they fought their first seat in Romsey when Tom Orrey polled 147 votes. In 1920 they tried again and the present Alderman Briggs was elected. 1912 saw the first – and greatest- open-air demonstration on Parker's Piece when many thousands were present. Permission had been refused but they decided to defy the council and the police. 32 11 04a

1932 11 04

Romsey Town, which saw the emergence of the Cambridge Labour Party 21 years ago, celebrated with a social in the Council School Hall. Presentations were made to honour the pioneers of the party.

First there was William Horwood who was connected with the Independent Labour Party in 1911 with whose help they put forward Tom Orrey, their first candidate. 32 11 04b

1933 01 30

Communist party first meeting – 33 01 30

1933 01 30

Hitler becomes German chancellor – 33 01 30a

1933 02 01

Central Conservative club fete for repairs following fire – 33 02 01a

1933 02 08

Moseley speaks at Union [1.14]

1933 03 11

A band of sixty undergraduates marching through Cambridge carrying placards reading ‘No More War’, ‘Scholarships, not Battleships’ and ‘We want peace’. They raised such re-echoing pacifist shouts that even horses seemed slightly perturbed while people turned round and stared. It was a protest organised by the Students’ Anti-War Council. They marched to Parker’s Piece where some fine pieces of oratory were heard, but the crowd was not particularly enthusiastic. 33 03 11a

1933 04 01

Lloyd George was in great form when addressing a student meeting in Cambridge. On previous visits he received an honorary degree in 1920, broke a railway journey to address crowds outside the station in 1923 and spoke in the Guildhall on the eve of the General Strike. Once he strolled through King’s college grounds and sat down on the river bank. When a companion pointed out that the grass was damp he said “All right, I’ll sit on the People”. And, folding his Sunday paper he did just that! 33 04 01b

1933 04 27

A meeting of the Cambridge Branch of the Society for Cultural Relations was ejected from the café where it was to have met after the management became alarmed at the number of undergraduates who managed to push their way in. It moved to Parker’s Piece where a strong posse of police surrounded the speaker while he denounced capitalism and imperialism, but they were there for his protection. Finally they escorted him off the Piece, holding back the crowds of undergraduates who would have followed him. 33 04 27

1933 06 16

Community and Labour opinions were so divided at a conference in Burleigh Street that a proposal to form a Cambridge Anti-War Council had to be adjourned after three hours. The University Anti-War Council said workers in Cambridge laboratories had been organised against war. Mrs Foster of the Women’s Cop-operative Guild wondered who were being prepared as the next enemy of Britain. It used to be the French, then the defenceless Boers and last of all the Germans. She appealed to women to play their part against the wickedness of war before the catastrophe arrived. 33 06 16 & b

1933 07 12

Dr R.M. Salaman addressed Cambridge Rotary club on the persecution of the Jews in Germany. Hitler was destroying the whole people: it was more serious than the mere ‘beating up’ of individuals who happened to be Jewish, it was a movement which struck at the very roots of civilisation. Paid advocates of the Nazis had been sent to Palestine and the Ukraine and the doctrine was being taught in schools in the most scandalous way. 33 07 12 p8

1933 07 26

A meeting of the Cambridge Anti-War Council debated whether to affiliate to the national body. There was a danger that war might appear soon and the workers would be caught as they were in 1914 unless some centralised organisation was set up. But the British Anti-War Movement had been started by Communists with the idea of boring from the inside and they should not join. 33 07 26

1933 08 09

A state of armed neutrality exists on the title 'battlefield' of Woodlands Farm, Ringshall near Stowmarket. Fascists are camped in the farmyard while a bailiff is in possession of two cornfields on the farm. The owner owes £47 to King's College for tithe and fields of wheat and barley have been seized for which tenders have been invited. Police are on constant duty while the fascists watch the approaching roads for signs of approaching cutting machinery. They have chalked messages on the road which read 'Farmers, Unite Now' 33 08 09

1933 10 14

Hitlerism debate at London cancelled, Michael Foot. President of the Oxford Union, was to have disapproved, .T.G.W. Blackwell, Cambridge Union, another speaker [1.12]

1933 10 18

An exhibition of Russian posters organised by the Cambridge branch of the Friends of the Soviet Union was opened at the Labour Hall. Maurice Dobb explained that very simple and forceful ideas were combined with a striking use of colour to appeal to the worker and 'activate' him or try to convince the peasants to join community farms run on a co-operative basis. The posters gave some idea of the life of the workers, contrasting the old conditions with the new. 33 10 18

1933 11 02

Photographs taken during a holiday in Russia are displayed at Ramsey and Muspratt studio in Post Office Terrace. Two studies, 'Dneiprastron: the new town' and 'Moscow: the Kremlin' show there is beauty in the new and old. The human side is captured in a fine study of the 'Intourist' bus driver and a Young Pioneers' demonstration while 'The Infants School' shows the Russian child. 'Prison Settlement', is a photo of another aspect of Russian life 33 11 02

1933 11 03

Socialist Society & Student Christian Movement organise demonstration & march from Parkers Piece to war memorial; counter demonstration of flour & white- features ... desecrating a holy day call for - abolition of bombing from air [1.6]

1933 11 06

Bonfire night demonstration & Hitler Nazi meeting – 33 11 06

1933 11 09

An inaugural meeting of the New Britain Movement was held in the Dorothy Café with Mr A Mackay in the chair. There should be a federation of European states: every day the world became more international and a policy of isolation would be disastrous. Communism and Fascism were threatening the world and England must show the rest the way out of the mess, speakers said. The power to issue money should be taken away from the financiers, only then would people receive enough to live on. 33 11 09

1933 11 10

The film 'Our Fighting Navy' has been withdrawn from the Tivoli Cinema following lively scenes. Fifty members of the Students' Anti-War went to make a protest but a rival party, numbering about a thousand undergraduates, marched to the cinema with two bands playing war-time songs and carrying Union Jacks. Several tried to push their way in until the arrival of four policemen who, with drawn truncheons, managed to keep the crowd at bay whilst a dozen more raced to the scene in motor vehicles. Cries of 'Down with Hitler' and 'Hail Hitler' were heard above the general uproar and a stink bomb let off in the vestibule 33 11 10, 33 11 11 [1.7, 1.13]

1933 11 11

Anti-war battles in street, Tivoli cinema – 33 11 11

1933 11 14

Memories and reminders of the horror of war are provided by the Cambridge Anti-War Council's exhibition opened. It consists of diagrams, photographs and cartoons and if anybody wants war after seeing them, they can have no feeling. Some of the photos of the dead were forbidden by the Censors and it is easy to see why. Part has been prepared by members of the Bio-chemical Board, Cavendish Laboratories and shows the effects of gas 33 11 14

1933 11 18

Anti-war meetings and views – 33 11 18

1934 01 12

Election contest includes United British Party candidate – 34 01 12

1934 01 20

National Labour Party and the election – 34 01 20

1934 01 25

Alex Wood nominated election – 34 01 25

1934 02 08

Commander Tufnell, the National Conservative candidate, toured Cambridge polling stations by motor car adorned with pink and white ribbons and artificial flowers. His wife took the wheel and proved herself a capable driver. Dr Alex Wood left the Labour Hall to a rousing reception from a drum (biscuit box) and fife (tin whistle) juvenile band while the Liberal candidate had a large black cat mascot, tied with blue and buff ribbons on the spare wheel of his buff-coloured car. However he lost his deposit as Tufnell beat Dr Wood into second place. 34 02 08,

1934 02 19

Cambridge showed little interest in the 100 hunger marchers who arrived from Huntingdon. They halted at Girton College where jugs of tea and buns were given. About 200 people including members of the University Socialist Society and Anti War Movement escorted them into town. Darkness was falling as a rally was held on Parker's Piece where a small crowd gathered before they made their way to the Corn Exchange where they spent the night. But police were accused of provocation when they forcibly expelled them on Monday morning. Guy Burgess amongst group undergraduates who march with them through town, undergraduates provide food. Cultured newspapers ignore them, gutter Press calls them 'mob of Red dupes whose leaders are paid weekly in Moscow gold' Marxist library & bookstall established at Girton College 34 02 19 34 02 26

1934 02 26

Romsey Labour Club extension opened – 34 02 26

1934 03 01

Hunger Marchers – Bishop Stortford vicar's impression – 34 03 01

1934 03 03

Sir Stafford Cripps addressed a meeting on 'The Necessity for Socialism' at Cambridge Central School. The hall was packed to capacity with townspeople and undergraduates and he was greeted with mingled cheers, boos and hisses. His speech was interrupted on several occasions and twenty undergraduates opposed to his views waited for him at the school gates afterwards. But the proctor and his bulldogs arrived in time and he was driven away without any demonstration being possible 34 03 03

1934 04 12

Herr Gerhart Seger, who recently escaped from a German concentration camp told of his experiences. Under Hitler's 'Protection Arrest' men could be taken to prison with no reason. The Storm-Troopers, sadistic and brutalised men, could do what they would with inmates. Prisoners were beaten mercilessly, slept crowded together in damp ice-cold cellars and listened to men being tortured by the Nazis. Of 42 men imprisoned with him, two were beaten to death within a fortnight. After he'd come to England his wife and baby had been taken to a concentration camp as hostages, not to be released until he returned. 34 04 12

1934 04 27

Anti-war ballot [1.3]

1934 05 02

May Day demonstration – 34 05 02, Labour and Co-op demonstration, May Day – 34 05 07,

1934 11 10

Poppy Day collectors had to contend with a dismal downpour of rain. But a large crowd gathered on Senate House Hill to await the arrival of a self-styled 'Hitler' who was due to open the Caius Fun Fair. When he did come, by car, he brought a procession of about a dozen cars in his wake, all containing weird and wonderful characters. The obstinate mule, which last year lay down in the road and refused to get up until tempted by a coin, was less obstinate on the present occasion, for the wet and muddy road was hardly a pleasant bed. 34 11 10 & a

1934 11 12

Several hundred people joined in a peace meeting on Parker's Piece organised by the Cambridge Anti-War Council and the University Anti-War Movement before marching in a torchlight procession to the War Memorial. The procession, some 300 strong began their march along Mill Road, increasing in size as it went along. But they missed the turning into Tenison Road and crossed Mill Road Bridge before winding its way round the back streets to the War Memorial. They laid a wreath 'To those of all countries who fell in the last war from those who are pledged to prevent another' 34 11 12c

1934 11 17

Sensational revelations concerning Germany's war plans were made at a meeting in Cambridge Guildhall. Speaking to the University League of Nations Union, Mr Wickham Steed, a former editor of The Times, said they had imported enough arsenic ore to make poison gas sufficient to swamp Europe twice over. The next war is likely to come without warning and many be commenced by an overwhelming night attack. General Goering, at the Nazi Air Ministry has built 85 underground aerodromes this year and had at least 2,000 aeroplanes, he claimed. 34 11 17 & a

1934 11 23

Anti-war exhibition [1.4]

1934 12 04

Lord Rutherford presided at the first meeting of Cambridge University Democratic Movement. There is a great fear of the power of military aeroplanes making a sudden and devastating attack on defenceless cities involving the destruction of combatant and civilian alike. Air warfare of any kind should be abolished, he urged. Vyvian Adams praised his work at the Cavendish Laboratory. None could hope to isolate himself from the surrounding dangers. The question was did we want human development or human destruction by scientific means. 34 12 04

1934 12 15

Members of the Beaconsfield Club celebrated 50 years of work in the social and political life of Cambridge. It was opened in November 1888 and with its members unswervingly loyal to the Conservative cause the club stood as a bulwark against the inroads of socialism. While there were

clubs like this the political destiny of the constituency was in safe hands. The Magpies Concert Party gave an excellent entertainment, this chorus song to personalities of the club being particularly popular. 34 12 15

1935 02 02

Lord Eltisley spoke of the record of the National Government. If the Socialists had remained in office we should have been in a state of chaos. We required a stable, strong and safe Government and in Stanley Baldwin had a leader in the best tradition of British statesmanship. Signs were not lacking that storms were blowing up and we might again be approaching a crucial period. In Germany young people were being brought up in a creed of glorification of arms. Now they had order 12 new submarines. Our best defence was to be prepared against sudden attack 35 02 02 &

1935 02 21

Hugh Dalton on fascism – 35 02 21

1935 02 23

Mosley previous visits – 35 02 23a

1935 02 25

An open-air demonstration under the red flag against the new Unemployment Bill was held on Parker's Piece supported by the University Socialist Society and Labour Clubs. A crowd of nearly 100 assembled. There are two-and-a-half million registered unemployed but there had been an increase in production without an increase in wages. The worker had become the slave of the machine, not the machine the tool of the worker. Mr H.C. Bibby spoke on camps for the unemployed: many who took part had the best of motives but they could develop into terrible concentration camps. 35 02 25

1935 03 01

Peace ballot - "county is peace-minded" [1.1]

1935 03 07

Police guarded the closed gates of the University Arms Hotel while Sir Oswald Mosley was at a dinner organised by the University Fascist Society. Outside a meeting organised by the University Socialist Society was held on Parker's Piece with speeches by John Cornford, Maurice Cornford and Maurice Dobb. Then a torchlight procession by 200 undergraduates shouting anti-Fascist slogans such as 'We want Mosley dead or alive' and singing 'The Internationale' marched to Peas Hill where more speeches were made before a Proctor arrived and they dispersed. 35 03 07c

1935 04 04

There is no doubt the Peace Ballot has made Cambridge people face the vital questions. Results show nearly all wanted Britain to remain a member of the League of Nations and an all-round reduction of armaments by international agreement. The manufacture and sale of armaments for private profit should also be prohibited. If a nation insisted on attacking another the others should compel it to stop by economic measures or, if necessary, by force under the auspices of the League and preferably by an International Police Force. 35 04 04 [1.1]

1935 04 29

Anti-Nazi play at Festival Theatre – photo – 35 04 29a

1935 08 27

Political travelling cinema, New Square car park – photo – 35 08 27

1935 11 05

A 'Fascism and War' exhibition organised by the Cambridge Anti-War Council discloses methods by which the illegal opposition movements in Germany and Italy distribute their literature disguised as

items of a non-political nature. There is also propaganda printed on paper of tissue thinness and a method of photographing illegal printed matter and transposing it on paper which instantly goes black on exposure to light if opened by the police. The recipient knows to treat the paper chemically to counteract the effect. Also on display is also one of the Anti-Nazi leaflets spilled from the roof garden of a Berlin restaurant on to the streets below and a collection of abusive correspondence, including one from Ezra Pound, sent from Italy to a Fellow of King's College after he contributed certain views in an English paper 35 11 05 & a

1935 11 14

In view of the apparent apathy it is surprising that the number of electors who voted was so high. The excitement, so far as there was any, was greatest in the outlying districts. Residents in the newly-added areas such as Trumpington and Cherry Hinton had the curious experience of living in the Borough and voting (for Parliamentary elections) in the County. So did residents on the Hurst Park Estate which used to fall within the Impington parish boundary. At Brunswick Council Schools a blind man arrived. The inner room was cleared except for the presiding officer who told him the names of the candidates and then made a cross at the voter's selection. 35 11 14

1935 11 15

After the Cambridge declarations the victors went round to the Central Conservative Hall, where, by the courtesy of the Little Theatre players, who were having a rehearsal, the customary congratulatory meeting was held. The voters had realised the necessity of the National Government carrying on its duty of reviving prosperity and the necessity of defence as well as peace. Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin telegraphed congratulations to Lt-Commander Tufnell. 35 11 15, 35 11 16

1935 11 15

Peace-Week torchlight procession [1.2]

1935 12 12

Dr William Wooster told the court he was a member of the Scientists' Anti-War Group and had been standing outside Duxford Aerodrome selling pamphlets entitled 'Air Display Special'. It carried a headnote to say it was not to be sold to members of H.M. Forces but they were seized by police under the Incitement to Disaffection Act. Surely people could be reminded of the sheer horrors of the Great War 35 12 12 & a

1935 12 20

The judge agreed that police had been wrong to seize copies of a pamphlet from a member of the Cambridge Scientist's Anti-War Group at Duxford aerodrome during the Royal Review. They'd been worried following an earlier incident at Mildenhall when a misguided female threw a paper at the King's car. 'The Anti-War Special' was crude, inartistic and in some respects childish. It had been sold by Dr Wooster supported by a bevy of satellites, mainly ladies, wearing badges of a reddish hue. Various ex-servicemen had expressed themselves in vituperative terms and its distribution might have led to a breach of the peace 35 12 20 & a

1936 03 07

Ugly scenes were witnessed at a demonstration organised by the University Socialist Club and Anti-War Council at the Guildhall which was addressed by Aneurin Bevan. There was vocal opposition from the gallery with fighting and at one juncture all the doors were opened wide because of a strong offensive smell. Earlier 500 undergraduates took part in a torchlight procession headed by the red banner of the University Anti-War Movement shouting "We want peace" and "Stanley Baldwin must be sacked" 36 03 07 & a

1936 03 12

"Is any treaty made with Germany more than a piece of paper" asked Sir Austen Chamberlain when he reviewed Germany's action over the demilitarised zone in a speech he made at the annual dinner of the Cambridge University Conservative Association. The Association was flourishing and its numbers

and activities greater than ever. There were a disproportionate number of Oxford men in the House of Commons but the Cambridge men made up in quality what they lacked in numbers. However there was a slackness in the Conservative Party which had no counterpart among the Socialists. 36 03 12 & a

1936 05 04

"I am not at all sure that if I had been a German I should not have voted freely and enthusiastically for Hitler at the last election", Dr Alex Wood told a May Day demonstration on Parker's Piece. Germany as she was today was the creation of the Allied Governments and their policy of repress and unilateral disarmament, he continued before condemning the Government's re-armament policy. It would lead inevitably to war. Only on the foundations of International Socialism and co-operation can secure peace be built. 36 05 04b

1936 06 08

The Tithe Bill now before Parliament would alter tithe from being a charge on the land to a charge on the person. This meant a man could be distained on his household goods and everything else to pay tithe dues. The burden of tithe should rest on the broad shoulders of the large landowners, but it had now been put on those who had not the shoulders and could not bear it, Cambridgeshire farmers were told. If they owe money fairly and squarely, they are prepared to pay. But they are not going to pay unjust taxes, a meeting resolved 36 06 08 & a

1936 07 29

The Fellowship of Reconciliation, a peace movement born in Cambridge during the dark days of 1914 was founded by people united in the conviction that the way of war could not be the way of Christ for righting wrongs and had now spread to many countries. Some 250 people from Germany, France, Italy, Bulgaria and Belgium together with the USA, Japan and the Argentine are attending a conference at Selwyn College on 'Christ: the Peace of the World'. 36 07 29b

1936 08 28

Cambridge meeting on Spain & Fascists – 36 08 28

1936 11 02

Undergraduates demonstrated support for 130 hunger marchers from Durham on their way to London to protest against the Means Test and new scales of benefit. At Girton College girl students served them tea and buns before 250 undergraduates joined the procession carrying torches and banners. There were meetings in the Co-operative and Labour Halls before the protestors had an evening meal in the students' rooms. At Cheshunt College some of the marchers ate in hall. Having slept in the Corn Exchange they continued to Saffron Walden where the Labour Party entertained them with lively tunes from a loudspeaker van. The march is due to arrive in London next weekend. 36 11 02 & a 1936 10 31

1936 11 06

CU branch Fascists dinner, heavy police guard, November [1.4]

1936 11 07

Cambridge Peace Week, 14 organisations unite [1.15]

1937 01 11

At the first open meeting of the Cambridge Left Book Club tribute was paid to the memory of Mr G.C. Maclaurin, who was killed recently fighting for the Spanish Government in Madrid. He, more than anybody, was responsible for the flourishing members of the club in Cambridge where some 400 of the total membership of 35,000 are resident. The speaker discussed 'Must Capitalism Fail?' In a Socialist society, such as the USSR, all the sources of production were utilised to the full. While Russian workers were enjoying the fruits of their labour, the capitalist workers were saddled with debt. 37 01 11

1937 02 03

The death of John Cornford while fighting for the Spanish Government is a grievous loss. He had a brilliant academic career and was preparing for research work in history when the Spanish rebellion broke out. As soon as it was known that Italian war planes were being delivered to the Spanish rebels he went out as a volunteer, joining the British section of the International Brigade and fighting alongside G.C. Maclaurin of Cambridge who was killed in Madrid. He saw continual fighting for five weeks and was commander of the British section on the Cordova front when he was killed reconnoitring in advance of the lines. 37 02 03

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1937 02 13

Cambridge Scientists' Anti-War Group, a technical and advisory body to Peace Movements, has issued a booklet entitled 'The Protection of the Public from Aerial Attack. It is a critical examination of the recommendations put forward by the Home Office Air Raids Precautions Department. They constructed 'gas proof' rooms according to Government plans and measured its resistance to the entry of air from outside. Much of the information is technical with a separate chapter devoted to the protection of children 37 02 13a [1.21]

1937 03 08

Cambridge Trades Council and Labour Party celebrated its 25th anniversary with a dinner in the Dorothy Café addressed by Mr C.E. Atlee, leader of the parliamentary party. Mrs Rackham recalled the early Labour candidates: the Rev Rhondda Williams was the first in 1918 while Alec Firth stood in 1922, 23 and 24. Hugh Dalton, hero of the spectacular by-election of 1922 and now Chairman of the National Executive, spoke of the early days of the party in the town. Dame Sybil Thorndike put in an appearance at the close of the evening, receiving an enthusiastic welcome. 37 03 08 & a

1937 04 28

Cambridge Union Society emulated the Oxford refusal to fight for king and country by carrying a motion in favour of complete national disarmament and individual refusal to bear arms. If re-armament were abandoned in the pursuit of peace our economic system would collapse and we would be faced with a military revolution of the property classes on the lines of General Franco. It might involve us in civil war – unless passive resistance was practiced as it had been by Gandhi, opponents warned. 'Refuse to fight for any other nation in any war ... shall always be prepared to die if need be for King & Country but for nobody and nothing else' but soon concerned that neighbours fowls being eaten that ours are safe 37 04 28 & a

1937 05 03

Please make what use of this you may. Kindly remember where it came from – www.mikepetty.org.uk

Labour Party's May Day demonstration on Parker's Piece, 500 marches – 37 05 03a & b

1937 05 29

Within the next few weeks about thirty Basque children brought to England following the terrible air raids at Bilbao and Gernika will be arriving in Cambridge. They will be taken to Pampisford Vicarage where the children will remain for at least six months being looked after by volunteers from the University. As they are destitute provisions must be made for their welfare and beds, boots and clothes are required. 37 05 29

1937 06 30

The Nazi salute was given as German ex-prisoners of war honoured Cambridge's war dead. Members of the Reichsvereinigung Ehem from Kriegsgefangener marched to the memorial where the ranks of local British Legion standard bearers were joined by the German standard-bearer, carrying the Nazi flag. While standards were dipped, one of the visitors placed a laurel wreath on the memorial as members of the German party gave the Nazi salute. They then left for a civic reception at the Guildhall. 37 06 30 & a & b

1937 07 23

John Cornford memorial meeting attended by Communists, socialist, labour, liberals and Bevan – 32 07 23b & c

1937 10 13

Sir – since the beginning of the Spanish Civil War four Cambridge men have laid down their lives fighting against the Fascist Insurgents. They are John Cornford (Trinity), G.C. Maclaurin (St John's), G. Lorimer Birch (Caius) and Julian Bell (King's). The first three were in the International Column, the fourth as an ambulance driver. Now a branch of the Voluntary Industrial Aid Organisation has been established to recondition motor vehicles as ambulances for Spain. Side-car ambulances are needed that can go up the hills through narrow passes; at present wounded have to be transported by mules. Donations should be sent to me – Joseph Needham, Caius College 37 10 13

1937 11 15

Cambridge Peace Week ends with march from Parkers Piece to War Memorial – 37 11 15a & b

1938 01 20

Anti-Japanese demonstration – photo – 38 01 20

1938 05 02

May Day big demonstration 38 05 02 & a

1938 05 31

When politics really were exciting: bonfires and torchlight processions – 38 05 31b,

1938 07 18

The Spanish people were fighting our battle & the British Government should take strong measures, a Conference on Spain in the Cambridge Masonic Hall was told. If Franco were to win as the pawn of Mussolini and Hitler another European war would be much closer. Meanwhile a service of prayer on behalf of religious persecution in Germany was held at the Synagogue in Thompson's Lane. Cambridge Refugee Committee exists to help all German and Austrian refugees and would be pleased to receive gifts of money 38 07 18 & a. Cambridge lorry for Spain – 38 07 16c

1938 10 29

Fireworks, jeers, cheers and shouts punctuated a meeting organised by the University Socialist Club addressed by Major Atlee, the Leader of the Opposition, in the Corn Exchange. The noise died down when he began to speak but there were frequent interruptions caused by exploding fireworks. All

police leave was cancelled because of the meeting and a visit by Sir Oswald Mosley to the C.U. Fascist Association dinner in the Dorothy Café. But rowdyism was principally of the vocal kind. 38 10 29a

1938 11 28

A pacifist convention held in Labour Hall, Norfolk Street under the chairmanship of Dr Alex Wood called for every citizen to renounce all participation in and preparation for war. It was a crime against humanity and a sin against God. You cannot destroy German militarism through killing German soldiers. The colossal expenditure on death should be stopped and our country should take the lead by disarming 38 11 28 & a

1938 12 10

When Jimmy Overton, retiring secretary of the Trades and Labour Council, came to Cambridge in 1909 no Labour movement existed apart from the Independent Labour Party so he set about forming one. They contested Romsey, the strongest Liberal ward in Cambridge, in 1911 to prove Labour was not just a wing of the Liberal Party. Cambridge's first parliamentary Labour candidate was Rev Rhondda Williams but stories that members of the party pawned their furniture to finance the election are untrue. However Mr Overton had a great deal to do with providing his deposit. 38 12 10a

1939 02 07

Men and women members of the International Brigade, who have seen service in Spain fighting for the Government, spoke at the Guildhall which was almost filled to capacity. The meeting was called by the Cambridge Co-ordinating Committee for Spanish Relief. In Spain rickets was becoming rife, hunger dropsy was beginning to appear and anaemia was present. Between 300 and 400 people were dying from actual starvation in Madrid every day. For the first time in history in America surplus food was not being destroyed but was being sent to Spain. 39 02 07

1939 05 20

2,500 Undergraduates packed Churchill Meeting in Corn Exchange, voted to gladly accept the measure of conscription involved in the Military Training Bill. Churchill was occasionally interrupted by cheers, ironic laughter, and cries but generally speaking, the meeting passed off quietly. What violence there was occurred outside. Long before the meeting was due to start a queue formed up outside, and some of those unable to get in attempted to force an entrance. A rush was made on the west door and in the course of the melee, a policeman lost his helmet. Other officers repelled attempts to enter by the main door. A crowd of undergraduates several hundred strong remained in Corn Exchange Street until a proctor ordered them to disperse. 39 05 26 CIPof [7.7] 39 05 24a

1939 08 11

10,000 at Gogs Fete. Over 16 years the annual Cambridgeshire Conservative bumper fun-fair, with its penny per hour programme of entertainment. Thousands of holiday-makers joined the stream of traffic, both vehicular and pedestrian. By tea-time the 10,000 people who had defied the clouds entered the carnival spirit of the occasion. The avenues and car parks of the estate were electrically illuminated at night. Parliamentary Secretary of Board of Trade, was the principal speaker at an evening meeting attended by hundreds 39 08 11 CIPof

1940

1940 03 01

University Election. The result of the Cambridge University by-election, made necessary by the death of Sir John Withers, was announced on Saturday as follows. —Dr. A. V Hill (Ind. Cons.) 9,840; Prof. J. A. Ryle 5,386; Majority 4,454. Polling, which was by post, began on February 19 and was completed on Friday. At the last election, Sir J. Withers (Cons.) 7,602 and Mr. K. Pickthorn (Cons.) 6,917 were elected, and Mr. H. L. Elvin the unsuccessful Labour candidate, polled 3,453 votes 40 03 01 CIPof

1942 09 02

Death of Lord Eltisley of Croxton Park, Cambridge MP for 12 years – 42 09 02

1943 11 20

Sir Oswald Moseley release from prison rally interrupted by University Labour Society – 43 11 20

1944 05 06

Romsey Labour Club celebrate being free from debt – 44 05 06

1944 08 25

Retirement. Having held office as district officer of the Transport and General Workers Union at Cambridge for 25 years, Mr. A. E. Stubbs is relinquishing the post to devote himself to politics in the county. Since 1936 he has been prospective Labour candidate for Cambridgeshire and has already fought six Parliamentary elections. Mr. Stubbs has had a colourful career, rising from a newsboy to become a local champion of the farm workers and working classes, and also directing his energy to other forms of public work. "I am going straight over to the political field to get ready for the General Election," he said. He has, for many years been a member of the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Agricultural Wages Board, a member of the Cambridge Borough Council for about 12 years and on the Cambridgeshire County Council for a similar period. He is a member of six Joint Industrial Councils under the Whitley Scheme 44 08 25 CIPof

1944 09 08

Cambridge Trades Council unanimously nominated a Cambridge man Major Arthur Leslie Symonds M.A. to the Prospective Labour candidate for the Borough of Cambridge. Major Symonds, who is 33 years of age, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Symonds, of 60 Scotland Road Cambridge 44 09 08 CIPof

1945 07 14

Communists decide contest Cambridge municipal elections for first time, Mrs Pearl Lilley candidate for Trumpington Ward – CDN 1945 07 14 [6.1]

1945 07 26

Labour win elections for Cambridge – Major L. Symonds and County – A.E. Stubbs – A.L. Symonds elected first Labour MP & first representative since Mortlock born & bred in Cambridge CDN 1945 07 26 [3.8]

1947 08 12

A free-for-all political argument developed on Parker's Piece last night at a meeting organised by the Cambridge branch of the Communist Party to discuss "Britain's Crisis". Among the hecklers was a small band of Conservatives who interrupted the speakers by words and music through another amplifier. Mrs Pearl Lilley declared that the Socialists were not carrying out the policy they were elected on. After several interruptions from the Conservatives over the loudspeaker, Mrs Lilley remarked on the very low level to which the Tories had got to stoop to gain their audience. Several questions concerning starvation in Russia, the secret police there and the lack of freedom of speech were answered by the speakers despite interruptions from the "opposition" loudspeakers over which was played the National Anthem and "Land of Hope and Glory" 47 08 12

1949 01 28

A hoax played on Cambridge, when notices appeared announcing a mass patriotic rally to be held on Parker's Piece which would be addressed by Sir Oswald Mosley and other members of his party, had a sequel at the Magistrates court when an undergraduate of Trinity college appeared on a summons of fixing one of the pamphlets to a tree on Parker's Piece. Defendant said: "I did it to annoy the communists" c49 01 26

1949 06 10

Picketing by Jews and Communists outside the Chesterton secondary modern boys' school resulted in the abandonment of a meeting which was to have been held there by the British People's Party. Inside the hall, which had posters, "Britain awake", on the walls, there were eight people by the time the meeting was due to start. The meeting had been well advertised however, 2,000 handbills having been circulated. The Party believe that bad as the Conservatives certainly are, they would not do so much damage to the country as an extension of Labour rule 49 06 10

1949 11 01

A great worker in the field of women's suffrage has died. Mrs Edith Bethune-Baker devoted her life to the advancement of women's suffrage. When she first came to live in Cambridge she joined the small suffrage society, the first meeting of which was held at Christ's college. On one occasion she spent 11 hours on a cross-country journey to address a meeting of 12 women. After the suffrage battle was won she carried on the work to secure equality for women. Although firm and courageous in her stand, she was essentially gentle and courteous c49 11 02

1950

1950 01 21

University representation in parliament has been abolished by the recent Representation of the People's Act. Amongst those deprived of their seats are the two Cambridge University members, Dr Kenneth Pickthorn (conservative) and H. Wilson Harris (independent). Mr Harris has not sought another constituency but is waiting to see whether Mr Churchill will be in a position to restore the University seats University Parliamentary representation disbanded, began in 1603 50 01 21

1951 10 09

Two hours before the Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, was due to address a meeting in the Cambridge Guildhall a queue which ultimately wound round the whole of the building had begun to form. By the time the meeting opened about 1,250 people were crowded inside. Some 1,500 more packed into the Corn Exchange to hear a relay of his speech. Others stood in the streets listening to a further broadcast of it. A large crowd gave cheers mingled with a few boos as he drove away at the end with Mrs Attlee at the wheel and a Special Branch detective in the back 51 10 09

1951 11 14

A strong detachment of uniformed and plain clothed police were on duty and a proctor and two bulldogs were at the entrance at the Labour Hall, Norfolk Street, Cambridge for the visit of Mrs Monica Felton. When Dr Joseph Needham, chairman of the Britain-China Friendship Association told hecklers that the Chinese viewed the dropping of the atom bomb on Japan as encouraging racial hatred. They do not believe it would have been dropped on a European nation. Mrs Felton described her visit to Korea where a town of 126,000 people had been 'systematically destroyed' by bombing by American jets and told of atrocities "too horrible to report", including civilians being buried alive. It was their responsibility to see these horrors stop and now 51 11 14

1952 05 06

Nearly 400 agricultural workers, headed by an M.P. marched with two banners flying through Cambridge city centre. They were members of the National Union of Agricultural Workers – men and women – who had come for a May Day rally. Mr Walston said we had to get as much out of the land as we possibly could simply for our national survival. The farm worker was the important factor in food production & should be compulsorily protected against the danger of toxic chemicals used on the farms. Grants be made to farmers for improving tied cottages together with loans for building new ones. 52 05 06

1953 01 09

After a six-months stay in Cambridge 16 excited Greek children left for their own country. They came here from war-shattered Greece in the summer of last year and stayed with families under the auspices of the Cambridge Committee of International Help for Children. They met and played with English

children, they attended school and as the months passed their frail forms filled out and they became normal healthy children 53 01 09

1955 01 18

Members of the Labour Party fought their way through a snowstorm to get to a ceremony at which the Labour Hall was re-named the Alex Wood Memorial Hall in memory of one of Cambridge's most prominent socialists. Speakers paid tribute to Dr Wood, who was bracketed by Mrs Leah Manning – founder member of the Cambridge Labour Party – with Dr Albert Schweitzer and Mahatma Gandhi because of his 'overwhelming love for humanity'. In the early days the Party was not in very great repute and many who belonged to it were not held in great repute either, she said. 55 01 18

1955 10 03

Harold Wilson attends Labour rally, October [2.16]

1956 03 02

Plain-clothes men filtered among the packed crowd which had gone to the Lion Hotel, Petty Cury, to hear the boss of Britain's Fascists, Sir Oswald Mosley. But the atmosphere was very different from when he came two years ago. Then it was trouble all the way. This time there were more cheers than jeers. He argued that armed war was now impossible due to the H-bomb. 56 03 02 [2.18]

1956 11 03

Six hundred undergraduates demonstrated at a 'No War on Suez' in one of the rowdiest meetings ever held in the Union Debating Chamber. Every inch of space was occupied and scores of people piled up on the window ledges to hear two MPs, Kenneth Younger and Anthony Wedgwood Benn who were the butt of deafening ridicule, shouting, catcalling, hissing and yelling from supporters of Prime Minister, Sir Anthony Eden. 56 11 03a

1956 11 05

A Suez protest rally was held on Parker's Piece. The back of a lorry provided a speakers' platform and round it was ringed an audience of some 1,500 people who attempted to listen to the arguments through the constant hubbub of a group of dissenting undergraduates. They carried slogans tacked on long-handled brushes saying 'Eden acts where U.N.O. fails' and 'Non-intervention is Suez-cide'. Scuffles broke out and a lone firework was lobbed on to the platform 56 11 05a

1956 11 05

Smoke bombs, water from upstairs windows and counter-cries from undergraduates accompanied the "Stop Eden's War" procession organised by Cambridge Labour Party. Eighty people carrying placards set off from the Alex Wood Memorial Hall but were joined by a second, less orderly procession of undergraduates shouting "Eden Must Stay" to counter the Labour cries of "Eden Must Go" 56 11 05b

1959 10 03

General election campaign – notes on Robert Davies, Hamilton Kerr, Around Geoffrey de Montmorency – 59 10 03a & b

1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has detailed newspaper cuttings files from this date

1960 02 25

Arthur Leslie Symons, former MP, death – 60 02 25

1960 04 05

The Cambridge Left Club protested against buying South African goods – 60 04 05a

1960 04 25

Sir Oswald Moseley had a jelly slapped in his face by an undergraduate when he spoke at the Union Society on Britain's future in Europe and Africa 60 04 25b [3.4]

1960 07

Refugee children arrive [6.4]

1960 10 06

A student branch of the Communist Party has been formed at Cambridge University. Membership is open to those who agree with their aims and are willing to work for the Party organisation. They will hold public meetings on topics of political interest where the Marxist approach on subjects such as philosophy, economics and culture can be discussed. Meanwhile the Labour Club will hear from Bessie Braddock, James Callaghan and Barbara Castle, the Liberals have Jo Grimond but the Conservatives speakers have yet to be announced. 60 10 06

1961 02 22

Oswald Mosley banned from Christ's college, scuffles outside New Theatre – 61 02 22a (11.61)

1961 03 17

Francis Pym, who has become Cambridgeshire's Member of Parliament following a by-election, said he saw it as a vote of confidence for Mr Macmillan. But his nearest opponent, Robert Davis, felt that a fair number of people who would have voted Labour switched to the Liberals. Their candidate, Richard Moore agreed, saying they were the obvious alternative to the Labour Party. Mr Pym, managing director of a tenting manufacturing firm, owns land on the western borders of the county and hopes to live in the constituency soon. 61 03 17

1961 11

Enoch Powell at Union [6.6]

1961 12 01

Harper House in Portugal Place houses 10,000 books devoted to the British Empire. It started in 1919 with informal tea parties at which students met for cultural discussions. By 1921 these had become so popular that 'Cambridge University International Teas' and conferences were started. In 1940 Mrs Irene Harper formed the Birdwood Club open to British children whose families were 'not pacifists' and had some connection with the armed forces. The postwar years which produced a Motherland 'bewitched, bothered and bewildered about the Common Market' have thinned the ranks of the membership 61 12 01 & a

1961 12 01

Nearly 800 University students crowded in to a meeting to hear Sir Oswald Mosley, leader of the British Union Movement. Security measures were taken to prevent incidents including plain clothes policemen in the hall. The precautions were successful although the meeting at times became lively with plenty of loud heckling. Mosley said one third of Africa should be turned over to white people and the rest looked after by the coloured races 61 12 01d

1963 02 12

Undergraduate threatened by fascists [3.5]

1964 10 09

Sir Hamilton Kerr Cambridge MP– profile – 64 10 09b, Robert Davies, Labour candidate – profile – 64 10 09c, Michael O'Loughlin, Liberal candidate – profile – 64 10 09d

1962 10 24

A crowd of 5,000 people, mainly students, swarmed through Cambridge after police and Proctors stopped a political protest rally about the American-Cuban crisis on the Market Square. Carrying placards declaring 'Hands Off Cuba' they made their way to Parker's Piece where the meeting got

under way with speakers both supporting and opposing President Kennedy's moves. One warned 'We are on the verge of a nuclear war'. Later police prevented another rally outside the Guildhall where demonstrators hammered on the side of passing buses. 62 10 24

1965 01 11

Major Dermot Freyer, first socialist member of City Council joined in 1919 and represented Petersfield until 1937; elected an hour before Clara Rackham – 65 01 11a

1965 02 26

Nora David completes first year as Labour councillor – feature – 65 02 26b

1965 03 06

David Lane, a graduate of Trinity College, was chosen as Conservative candidate for Cambridge. He first came to Trinity in 1941 but joined the R.N.V.R. and was gunnery control officer on a destroyer. He returned to gain a first class degree then studied at Yale before being called to the bar. He has opposed nationalisation of the steel industry and is an executive at the International Petroleum Company. "Clearly traffic is a problem in Cambridge and I am sorry for the people who have to organise it", he said. The long-term solution would be by-pass schemes. – 65 03 06, a

1965 06 07

'Peace in Vietnam' banner strung across pinnacles at King's chapel by night climbers – 65 06 07

1966 01 09

Conservative club financial problems, saved [6.2]

1966 01 28

Colin Jordan British Nazi leader to speak CU Liberal Club [9.1]

1966 04 05

CND demonstrate over Vietnam war – photo – 66 04 05

1966 04 22

Conservative Club - women can now join [6.2]

1966 04 30

Colin Jordan, self-styled Nazi, visit called off as Liberal Club can find no room – 66 04 30a

1966 12 02

200 in demo calling Government stop supporting American policies in Vietnam [10.1]

1966 12 02

Vietnam protest march – 200 people – 66 12 02b

1967 06 16

Ald Robert Davis, former MP, appreciation – 67 06 16

1967 10 28

Prime Minister Harold Wilson greeted by one of biggest demonstrations, 1,000 protestors encircle Guildhall – 67 10 28 # c.33

1967 11 15

Police shield US Ambassador from hundreds of students demonstrating against Vietnam war at Churchill College – 67 11 15

1968 02 19

Undergraduates invade US air base at Lakenheath in protest Vietnam war – 68 02 19

1968 03 09

Defence Secretary, Denis Healey, hissed by undergraduates after meeting at University Labour Club – 68 03 09

1968

‘Red’ Rudi Dutschke to Cambridge for treatment bullet wound in Berlin, offered place Clare but Home Office refused permission stay [9.7]

1969 10 30

Enoch Powell dodges protesting demonstrators when speaking at Union Society – 69 10 30a

1970

1970

“Strike-torn 70s” - various strikes against Govt legislation [1.6]

1970 02 11

Anti-Greek junta demonstrators fail disrupt tourist exhibition at Dorothy – 70 02 11

1970 02 14

Garden House Riot against Greek holiday promotion – 70 02 14, 14a, 14b

1970 02 14

“Garden House riot”: police make truncheon charge against mob of undergraduates who surged forward pinning score constables against shattered plate-glass windows causing £2,276 damage Garden House Hotel. City demand punishment for rioters 1000 march to Greek rally, 300 admit to being at anti-Junta demonstration four guilty of riot, seven acquitted; six sent prison periods 5-18 months, two sent to borstal “GHR changed course of events; afterwards student violence died off, 11,280 at dinner, climax of Greek Week promoting holidays under Right-Wing military dictatorship; Police invoked Riot Act, not used for years, Judge Melford Stevenson said it most complete example of intelligent young people getting involved in complete bloody nonsense - 70 02 14, 14a, 14b, 70 02 18 & a. 70 06 24

1970 02 18

Student demonstrations menace – discuss Garden House violence – 70 02 18 & a

1970 05 11

1,000 march to Free Greek Rally – 70 05 11

1970 09 16

Rudi Dutschke, radical German student living at Clare Hall; will not be allowed to remain – 70 09 16

1971 01 08

Rudi Dutschke who came to Britain in 1986 to recover from gunshot wounds and has been living at Clare Hall should not be allowed to stay, Tribunal recommends – 71 01 08; call for University strike – 71 01 11; students plan protest – 71 01 14; 1,000 students march – 71 01 16

1971 02 08

Home Secretary Reginald Maudling visit to speak to University Conservatives ends without trouble – 71 02 08a, b

1972 05 02

The first proper May Day march in Cambridge for many years collected together most of the action and pressure groups in the city on what is traditionally the workers day worldwide. As they marched through the city streets in the thick of the lunchtime crowds, passers-by tried to grab posters that were being carried. Amongst the marchers were the Anti-Interment League, Women's Lib, the Anti-Common Market Action Committee, the National Federation of Old Age Pensioners Association, who had to have a breather in the middle of the march, the Cambridge Tenants' Association and the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions 72 05 02

1972 08 25

Conservative Association moves from Gonville Place to Hartington Grove [6.3]

1973 06 14

Women's Lib demonstration, 14.6.73 [6.8]

1973 05 02

May Day strike - TUC Day of protest against Government [3.1]

1973 10 22

Mr Harold Wilson stirred the Labour Party workers of East Anglia into a fiery fighting mood at their regional rally in Cambridge. The audience of about 1,000 people gave him a standing ovation. Mr Wilson raised cheers with promises of pensions of £10 for a single person, £16 for a couple, strict controls on big business and action to secure the public ownership of land, especially for public amenities, schools and hospitals. His speech contained many personal swipes at Mr Heath. He said: "The truth is that while the three great social priorities - housing, education and hospitals - are being cut back, office building and property speculation runs on unchecked 73 10 22

1974

Three-day week [1.7]

1974 11 23

National Front, first meeting of Cambridge group, 30 members, 70 supporters; council bans further rallies in council-owned halls [9.11]

1975 02 20

Cambridge University should be nationalised, the Kite area turned over to council housing and traffic banned inside the city boundaries, the Cambridge Communist Party says in a policy statement. Amongst other measures they would like to see are turning the church of St Andrew the Great into a civic restaurant, requisition of vacant accommodation if vacant for six months, industrial expansion of Cambridge with more council houses, and the banning of office expansion in favour of housing and jobs 75 02 20

1975 04 12

The Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, came to Cambridge last night. For an hour he overcame both hecklers and the notorious acoustics of the city's Corn Exchange to win a standing ovation from almost 1,000 people. His main topic was the Common Market. He then went through a list of election promises and while harassed by the hecklers, who had paid 15p to get into the meeting, spelled out how each promise had been fulfilled 75 04 12 [6.9]

1975 05 09

Political extremists failed in their efforts to break up a mass pro-Common Market rally in Cambridge guildhall last night while Mr Edward Heath was speaking. But the agitators who frequently called out their support for the National front movement and waved banners and posters succeeded in halting the meeting twice – before fighting and scuffling broke out and they were thrown out of the meeting by groups of burly stewards. Repeatedly Mr Heath parried their tirade until the noise from agitators and

the counter booing and shouting of hundreds of other people in the hall forced him to stop speaking
75 05 09

1976

Moseley calls off visit due potential protest [Misc.3.3]

1976 06 09

New Labour party hall opened, faced with bricks from old building, part of site to be used for housing
[8]

1976 11 18

Philip Agee former CIA agent in Cambridge, (deportation fuss 1977) [9.6]

1976 12 03

There were three winners in the Cambridge Parliamentary By-election – the weather, apathy and Kojak. Together they succeeded in setting up the lowest turn-out in Cambridge this century. The biggest disappointment was that of the Liberal candidate, Dr Michael O'Loughlin who had hoped to take second place behind the Conservative, Robert Rhodes James. Labour officials were saying throughout the campaign that there was little chance of success, the Independent candidate was disappointed with his vote and the National Front result was a humiliation for them, getting less than 2% of the total vote. The only person not surprised by his lowly result was the Science Fiction Looney Party candidate 76 12 03

1977 01 07

Michael O'Loughlin, lost five times as Liberal candidate to quit [9.2]

1977 02 17

Philip Agee former CIA agent in Cambridge, deportation fuss [9.6]

1977 02 28

First Northern Ireland peace march [9.4]

1977 10 15

Prime Minister, Jim Callaghan, arrived in Cambridge to address a Labour Party Conference in the Guildhall and talk to the Fabian Society in the Union Society building. Leaders of the city's Sidewalk Surfers skateboarding group waiting outside got no promises of support for their skateboard rink campaign. Over lunch local Labour Party leaders – including Mrs Janet Jones talked of next year's rate support grant settlement for the county. In his speech Mr Callaghan welcomed President Carter's willingness to reduce nuclear weapons and said he sought a comprehensive ban on nuclear explosions
77 10 15

1979 02 12

Two hundred Iranian students made Cambridge demonstration history when they knelt on Parker's Piece, preyed and recited from the Koran. In what is thought to be the first political demonstration starting with a mass prayer ritual on improvised prayer mats covering the wet turf, the Muslims called upon Allah to bless the efforts of the Ayatollah Khomeini to establish a republic in Iraq based on Koranic law. They then marched to the Market Square. No incidents were reported though some confusion existed among Saturday shoppers, knowing it was the first day of Rag Week. But the slogans "Death to the Shah" and "Long live Khomeini" soon dispelled their doubts. CEN c 79 02 `1
[9.5]

1979 11 16

Anthony Blunt, the former don now exposed as the fourth man in the Cambridge-based Burgess-Philby-Maclean spy scandal, is unlikely to lose his place of honour at Trinity College. He has been an Honorary Fellow since 1947 but the Master said this was a reflection of his scholarship and it is most

unlikely that the college would take any action. After Mrs Thatcher made her statement in the Commons a Labour M P says there are a mass of unanswered questions

1980

1980 09 23

The European Parliament's Committee on External Economic Relations has come to Cambridge for a meeting in the Senate House because it is homeless. Dissent between member countries has forced it to expensively tour the cities of the EEC like a travelling troupe of well-heeled actors looking for a theatre. As chairman, Sir Fred Catherwood is allowed to have one meeting a year in his own patch. But only 20 Cambridge citizens took up the opportunity to witness the world's most powerful trading bloc in action. 80 09 23a

1981 10 17

New Labour HQ opened by Brenda Dean, SOGAT [10.2]

1982 03 17

In the heady days of 1981 Cambridge Social Democratic Party won a city council seat in Romsey, routing Labour after 60 years. But those heady days are over. Nationally opinion polls are showing a decline in support. Locally they are still haggling with the Liberals over who should field the Alliance parliamentary candidate – not a good image for a party who stand for an end to gladiatorial politics. There are about 500 paid-up SDP members in the city, against 450 Liberals, 1,000 Labour party members and 3,500 Conservatives 82 03 17

1982 04 26

TUC Day of action in support health workers pay claim [3.2]

1982 07 20

Protest over choice SDP candidate [9.2]

1984 07 17

Blidworth and Rainworth are two small Nottinghamshire mining communities locked in a bitter struggle for survival as the miners strike enters its 18th week. But in Cambridge the Trades Council has set up a Support Group and residents have raised nearly £4,000 for the families opposed to pit closure and the inevitable loss of jobs. On Saturday three local women arrived in the villages bearing gifts and hope. They are seeking homes in Cambridge which would be willing to take in a miner's family for a while to give them a holiday 84 07 17 p13

1985 09 06

The bricks which housed Cambridge Labour Party for nearly 60 years are now taking a new shape. Above the builders' board which surround the site of the old Alex Wood Hall in Norfolk Street is rising a brand new hall, faced with the bricks of the old structure. In exchange for their new premises, the party has given part of the site to builders who will use it for housing. The new hall should be ready by March 1986. 85 09 06 (history of site)

1986 10 20

Alex Wood Hall, newly-built headquarters of Cambridge Labour Party, was officially opened by Brenda Dean, the first woman general secretary of a union. 86 10 20

1986 12 01

Controversial MP Enoch Powell sparked off an angry confrontation when he arrived for a meeting of the University Conservative Association. The 'Rivers of Blood' politician, whose views on race have prompted strong opposition, spoke inside a locked room as students jeered outside the Old Combination Room at Trinity College. Demonstrators clambered up scaffolding in a bid to disrupt the

meeting and shouted slogans. A window was smashed. Mr Powell had been smuggled into his old college through a back entrance and a police escort was on hand to help him leave. 86 12 01c

1986 12 02

Robert Rhodes James has been Cambridge's Conservative MP for 10 years. He remembers the date of the election well: "It was the start of one of the coldest winters on record and there I was at two o'clock in the morning, freezing cold, in a snow storm standing on the balcony of the Guildhall waiting for the mayor to make the announcement". But his cold initiation has been more than compensated for by the warmth of the reception he has since received from electors. 86 12 02

1987 05 18

The dissolution of parliament marks the end of an era for Francis Pym who retires from the House of Commons after a distinguished 26-year career that reached the pinnacles of ministerial office. He was Government Chief Whip, Northern Ireland Secretary, Defence Secretary, Leader of the House of Commons and Foreign Secretary. Even in his final years outside the Cabinet following his dramatic sacking by Mrs Thatcher he became a leading exponent of traditional Conservative values as the founder of Centre Foreward. He says it has been 'immensely enjoyable' 87 05 18

1987 06 12

Shirley Williams' dream of using Cambridge as a springboard back to Westminster crashed in ruins. In a night of disaster for key Alliance figures, she failed to make more than a minor dent in Robert Rhodes James' Conservative majority of more than 5,000 votes. But a crowd of left-wing hecklers chanting 'Thatcher Out, Thatcher Out' narrowly missed him with some well-aimed missiles as he acknowledged victory on the balcony of the Guildhall. And Liberal MP Clement Freud was ousted from his NE Cambs stronghold; after 14 years he was beaten by Wisbech businessman Malcolm Moss. 87 06 12

1988 05 28

Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister, tours Science Park – 88 05 28

1990 03 02

Robert Rhodes James MP for Cambridge, who was elected in 1976 when David Lane resigned his seat, is to stand down. He has campaigned to prevent British Rail installing controversial half barriers at Cherry Hinton railway crossing, fought the closure of St Bede's and Park Street primary schools and helped win a giant TriStar conversion deal for Marshall's. He also persuaded the Government to match the £2 million donated by David Robinson for the building of the Rosie Maternity Hospital. But he has been a fierce critic of the student loans plan. – 90 03 02, a

1990 05 05

Protestors burn poll tax bills on Parker's Piece after march through Cambridge – 90 05 05a